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JIAODONG PENINSULA:  
VIBRANT LIFE ON THE SEA

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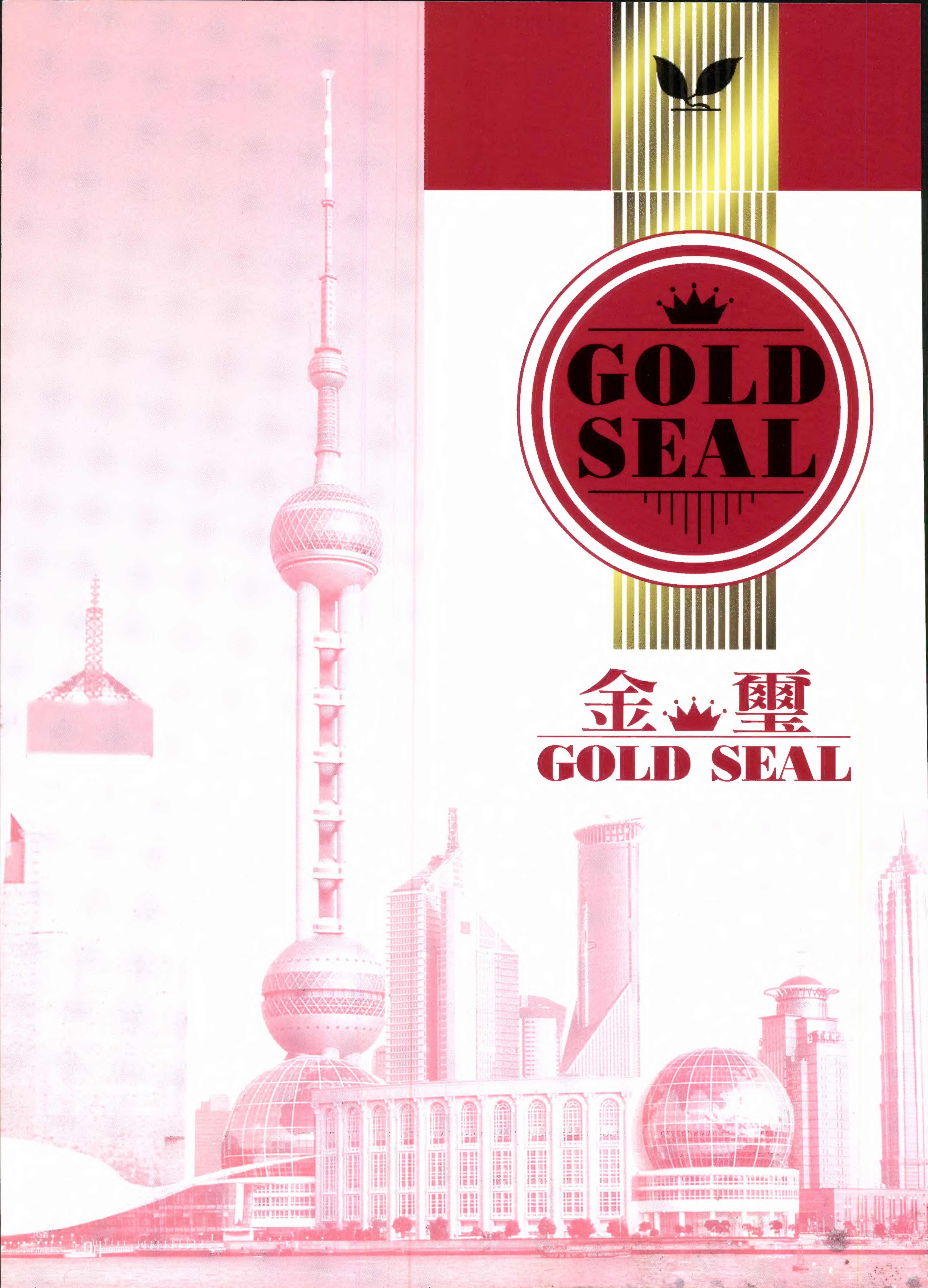


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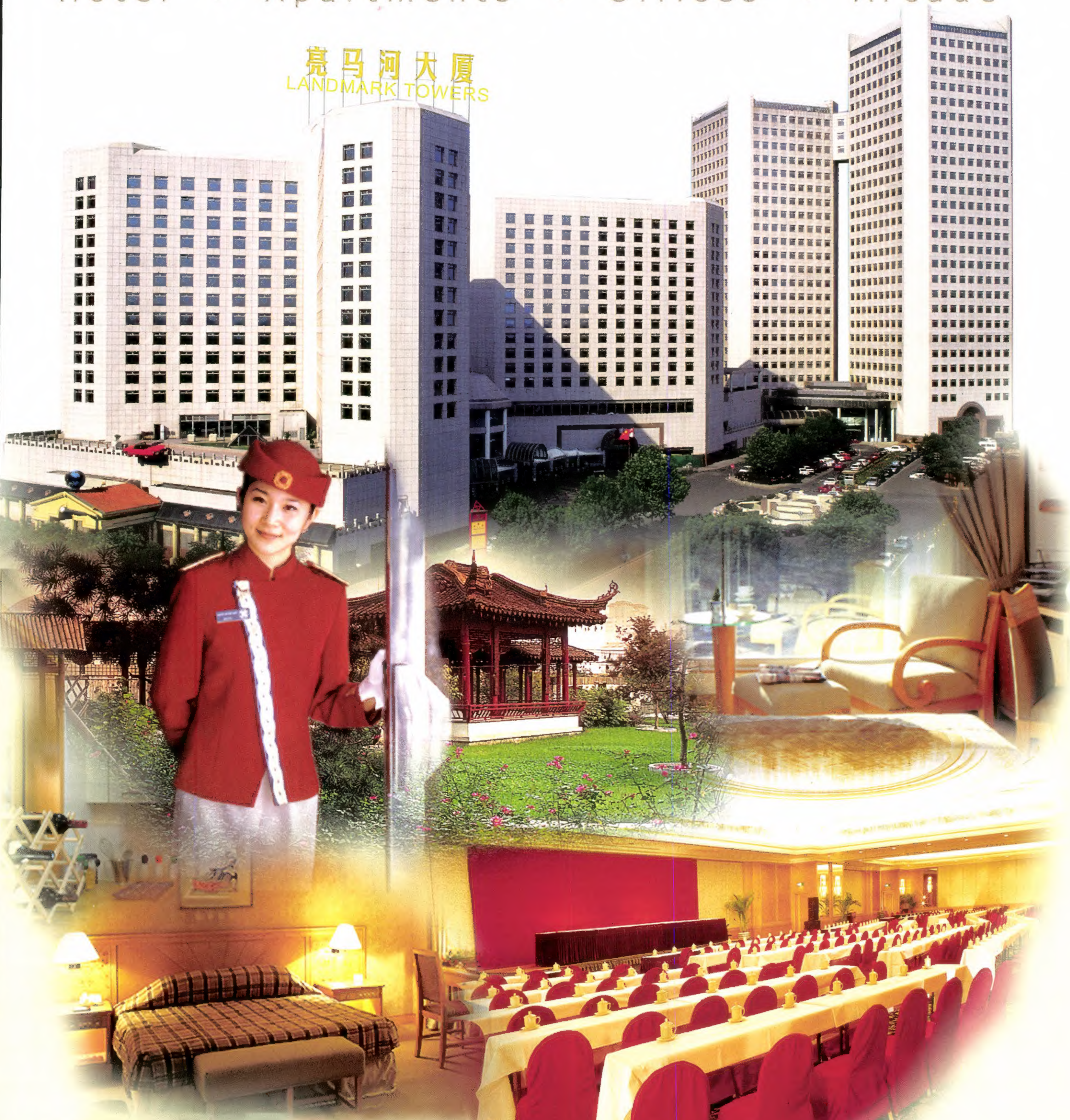
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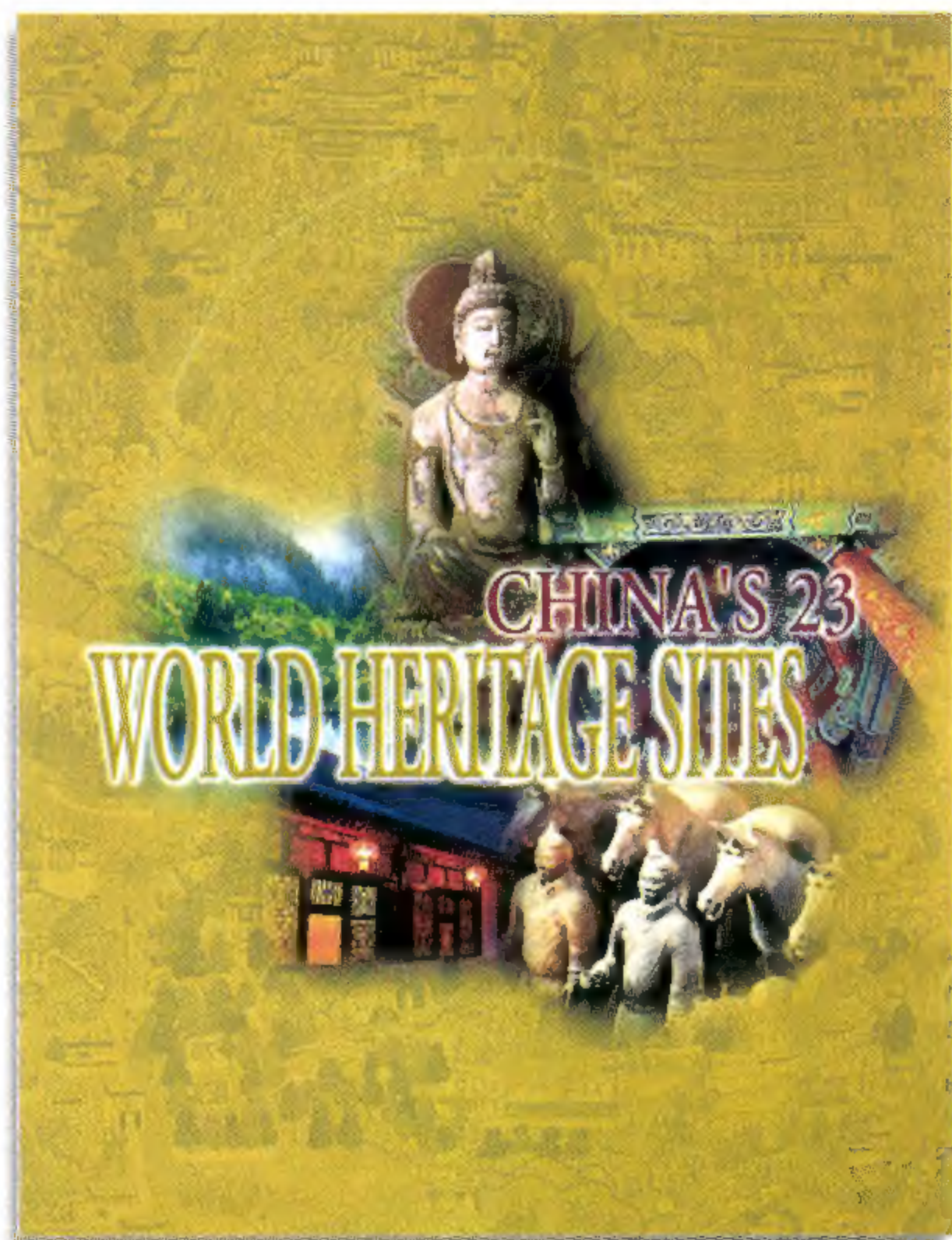
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China's 23 World Heritage Sites



# CONTENTS

No. 250 May 2001



Cover: The fishing harbour of Laizhou (by Xie Guanghui)



## From the Editor

7 Images at Play

8 Update

10 Travel Notes

13 Mail Box

## Feature Story

14 Jiaodong Peninsula: A Land of Surging Waves and Fantastic Legends

*Photos & article by Xie Guanghui*

When you visit the northeast tip of Jiaodong Peninsula, Shandong Province, you seem to straddle the worlds of both fairy stories and real life. The coastal landscapes are fascinating and the legends surrounding immortals and ancient emperors have created a wonderland within the realm of reality. And the museum built at the battlefield of a historic sea war in Weihai, the fishing harbour in Shidao and the aquiculture bases on Changdao Islands all have much to reveal about this area, its past and present.

## On the Way

42 Pilgrimage to the Holy Mountain

*Photos & article by Li Zhixiong*

Mainri Mountain in Yunnan Province is a holy mountain for the Tibetan people. In autumn, after they have finished harvesting in the fields, pilgrims from the surrounding areas, Yunnan, Tibet, Gansu and Qinghai, come to worship the mountain, walking a full circle around it and bathing in its holy waterfall. Our correspondent shares with you his experience of the journey.

## Culture

49 The Art of Liaodong Shadow Play

*Photos by Leng Bai, Zhao Chaoxun Article by Zhao Chaoxun*

## Local Guide

50 Three Travel Routes for the Spring Break

For this spring break, we recommend to you three cities, Guangzhou, Xiamen and Kaohsiung. All in southern China, each of them has its own unique attractions. The streets of Shamian in Guangzhou are lined with European architecture and carefree bars;



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# CONTENTS

No. 250 May 2001



Kaohsiung in Taiwan offers bustling shopping centres and charming beaches; Drumming Wave Islet in Xiamen is a "home of music" and a pollution-free resort.

## New Attractions

- 62 The Thousand-Buddha Cliff in Jiajiang

*Photos & article by Hong Lan*

## Culinary Delights

- 64 Delicacies of the Dai People — the Old Educated Youths Restaurant in Kunming

*Photos & article by Li Zhixiong*

## Special Themes

- 66 Savouring Tea in Shenzhen

*Photos by Shi Baoxiu, Zheng Ligang Article by Lu Shan*

Shenzhen is a rapidly developing modern city crowded with concrete high rises. Yet in both its bustling business centre and its suburban hills, you can find your quiet quarter to sip tea and refresh your body and mind.

## Experiences

- 71 Unforgettable Local Delicacies

- 73 Next Issue

## Customs

- 74 A Day with the Yi People in Zhaojue

*Photos & article by Ma Li*

An American travelled through Zhaojue, a remote county in Sichuan Province's Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, and encountered the local people of the Yi ethnic group. She also ran into a Yi wedding, where many aspects of the unique Yi customs were presented.

## Traveller's Corner

- 78 Crawling Out of Dulongjiang in Tears

*Photos by Nan Lingkun Article by Hu Niu*

## Photo Album

- 80 Outdoor Pursuits

## Travel Journal

- 82 Braving a Visit to the Great Wall at Simatai

*Photos by Qu Jianfeng Article by Wang Binxi*

- 83 The Wind and Clouds of the Grand Canyon

*Photos & article by Liang Zhiqiang*

- 86 Executive's Memo





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## IMAGES AT PLAY

At the northeastern tip of Jiaodong Peninsula in Shandong Province lies a stretch of coastline steeped in history, legend and mystique. In this issue's "Feature Story", our reporter takes a look at some of the unique characteristics that have contributed to the celebrity of this far-flung coastal corner of China's largest peninsula. You will visit places where fairy mountains appear at sea and immortals meet in the hills; where emperors are said to have visited in their quest for longevity; where an ancient battlefield becomes a bustling city, and where innovative solutions are applied to combat the depletion of resources in the fishing industry. Above all, it is a place where the power of the sea and the shape of the land have combined to endow the local people with a rare tenacity in the face of challenge.

In "On The Way", we invite you to follow the extraordinary pilgrimage of a group of Tibetans on their way to circle the Mainri Snow Mountain. And with the coming of spring, we have prepared three new itineraries to help you plan your spring break: Shamian, a relaxing district of Guangzhou with a European touch, Kaohsiung, a prosperous port in Taiwan, and Xiamen, a charming seaside city in Fujian Province.

Heroes, demons and deities taken from folk legends and popular stories are the central figures in the world of shadow play, a traditional Chinese art form that captures the imagination of local and international audiences alike. Liaodong shadow theatre originated in the Xiuyan Manchu Autonomous County, where the written scripts derived from a long oral tradition absorb the local dialect, music and culture of the Manchu people living in this area.

*Photo by Xie Guanghui*



## Hainan: Railway Soon in Operation

The Guangdong-Hainan Railway is expected to start operation by the end of the year. Construction of the 4.5 billion yuan (US\$540) project started last year. When it is completed, a special railway ferry service will transport trains from the mainland to Hainan.

Hainan Island is situated in the South China Sea. With its charming landscape, tropical scenery and rapidly developing tourist facilities, it has become an increasingly hot attraction to travellers and holiday makers from home and abroad. At present, the majority of

the tourists to Hainan travel by air. The railway project will offer another option of transport for visitors, and will greatly reduce the cost for budget travellers.



## Kunming to Hold International Tourism Festival

Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan Province, known as a city of everlasting spring, will hold its international tourism festival from April 10 to May 10, 2001. A series of cultural activities will be organised during the festival period. The festival is expected to attract 2 million visitors and will help boost the tourism industry in Kunming and Yunnan Province as a whole.

## Buddhist Relics Discovered Under Ancient Pagoda in Hangzhou

An underground treasure-trove was recently unearthed in Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang Province. From the basement built 2.6 metres below the foundation of the collapsed Leifeng Pagoda, a group of valuable cultural relics was discovered. Besides a Buddhist statue, there is also an iron case believed to contain the hair of Sakyamuni.

Leifeng Pagoda was completed in 976 during the Northern Song Dynasty. It was neglected and left to deteriorate in the following dynasties of the Yuan, Ming and Qing. The pagoda finally collapsed on September 25, 1924. While people kept taking away its bricks, believing that a piece of the pagoda would bring them good fortune, nobody had ever reached its underground hall.

The city government of Hangzhou has decided to rebuild Leifeng Pagoda and open it to the public as a tourist spot.

## Mummies Found in Lop Nur, Xinjiang

Archaeologists found many mummies on a sand dune in Lop Nur, Xinjiang. The sand dune, covering 2,400 square metres, is believed to have been a graveyard in ancient times.

At least 100 well-preserved mummies have been unearthed. Differing from those of Egypt, these mummies had not undergone special antiseptis measures before they were buried. Instead, they were wrapped in an ox hide in their coffins. But the result of natural preservation is surprising. A mummy of a six- or seven-year-old boy has clearly visible eyelashes and full lips. According to the characteristics of their build and features, archaeologists concluded that the mummies were Indo-Europeans. However, their specific date has not yet been decided.

These mummies have provided unique material for the study of the social and natural environment of this area in ancient times, for which there is no written record available. For example, similar mummies had previously been discovered at the site of the ruins of Loulan City and the Sun Cemetery in the nearby desert, and on examining "Princess

Loulan", a mummy from 3,800 years ago unearthed at the Sun Cemetery archaeologists found sand in her lungs. This proved that the area was dry and sandy even 4,000 years ago.





## Helicopter Airport for Marine Rescue, Shanghai

Shanghai plans to build a helicopter airport for marine rescue in Pudong, the newly developed area in eastern Shanghai. When its construction is finished in July, this will be the first of its kind ever built in China. Covering an area of 13.67 hectares, the airport will be located at a town called Gaodong, 1.5 km from the coast.

The airport will be equipped with a 200-metre-long and 30-metre-wide runway and up-to-date facilities for communications. To start with, two S-76Cs emergency helicopters will be imported from the United States. They will co-ordinate with rescue ships to search for and rescue victims of air or sea accidents. With the ability to withstand force 10 winds and force 9 waves, each of them will be able to carry 10 people and cover 650 sea miles.

## World-level Entertainment Park to Open in Zhuhai

A huge amusement park, called Golden Apple Entertainment Park, is being constructed on Qi'ao Island in Zhuhai, a city on the border between Guangdong Province and the Macao Special Administrative Region. The park will open to the public in October this year.

Covering an area of 40 hectares, the park is designed by a Hong Kong company and invested in by a joint venture company based in Zhongshan, Guangdong. Included in the park, among other world-class facilities for various entertainment and recreational activities, will be a racecourse, horse-riding grounds and a training centre for diving.



## Chongqing Building Up Transport Network

Chongqing, one of the four municipalities under the direct administration of the Central Government (the other three being Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai), is building an advanced network of land, river and air transportation.

In the coming five or six years, the mountainous city in Southwest China, on the upper reaches of the Yangtse River, will invest 45 billion yuan (US\$5.3 billion) in the construction of expressways to link it with coastal cities in the east and south, and other inland cities. Nine expressways are now under construction and the city's first ring road will be completed by the end of the year.

The project will also see seven railways running through Chongqing. Construction on one of them, from Chongqing to Huaihua in Hunan Province, will start soon. Chongqing has one of China's 10 largest airports and more modern facilities will be added to increase its capacity to handle 60,000 flights and 800 million passengers a year. The city is also speeding up the upgrading of infrastructure facilities in ports and docks on the Yangtse River, focusing on container shipping. In addition, a new port, Baishawan Port, will be built at the Three Gorges Reservoir to allow ships of 10,000 dead weight tonnage to reach Chongqing along the Yangtse River. A more efficient transport network will help Chongqing play an improved role in the strategic development of the middle and western regions of China.

## Second Nanjing Yangtse River Bridge

Another Yangtse River Bridge in Nanjiang, named Bagua Bridge, has opened to traffic. The 21.2 km cable bridge consists of two sections, which are connected on the Bagua Island in the middle of the river. The southern bridge, the 628-metre-span from Bagua Island to the south bank of the river, is the longest span in the country and the third longest in the world.

The first Nanjing Yangtse River Bridge was built 32 years ago and its designed capacity for 15,000 vehicles a day can no longer meet the demand that has increased several times over. The newly built Bagua Bridge is 11 km downstream from the old one. With a capacity to take 60,000 vehicles a day, it will help relieve the pressure on the old bridge. The total investment in the Bagua Bridge cost 3 billion yuan (US\$361 million).

Nanjing, situated on the lower reaches of the Yangtse River, is the capital of Jiangsu Province and neighbour of Shanghai. Construction of the city's third bridge spanning the Yangtse River will start soon and by the end of 2010 there will be all together four Yangtse River bridges in Nanjing.



## New Spot

### The Happy Valley Extreme Sports Camp

#### Shenzhen

The Happy Valley Extreme Sports Camp (HESC) was finally opened in the spring of 2001 in Shenzhen's Happy Valley. The Camp serves as a venue not only for performances by GWB, an extreme sports team from Canada, but also for the public to practise or hold skateboarding, unicycling and tricycling competitions. A club has also been established to train anyone interested in participating in these sports. Official membership is offered to those who pass a professional examination on the activity. Members are free to utilise all of the club's facilities and receive advice from experts provided by the camp.

The camp contains two floors, the upper floor boasting a space for a maximum audience of 2,000, and the lower one, a 6,000-square-metre stage with 12 performance sets including a launch ramp, quarter pipes, fun box, street spine, etc. The Camp is one of the few standardised extreme sports forums in Asia, and is the grandest of its kind in China.

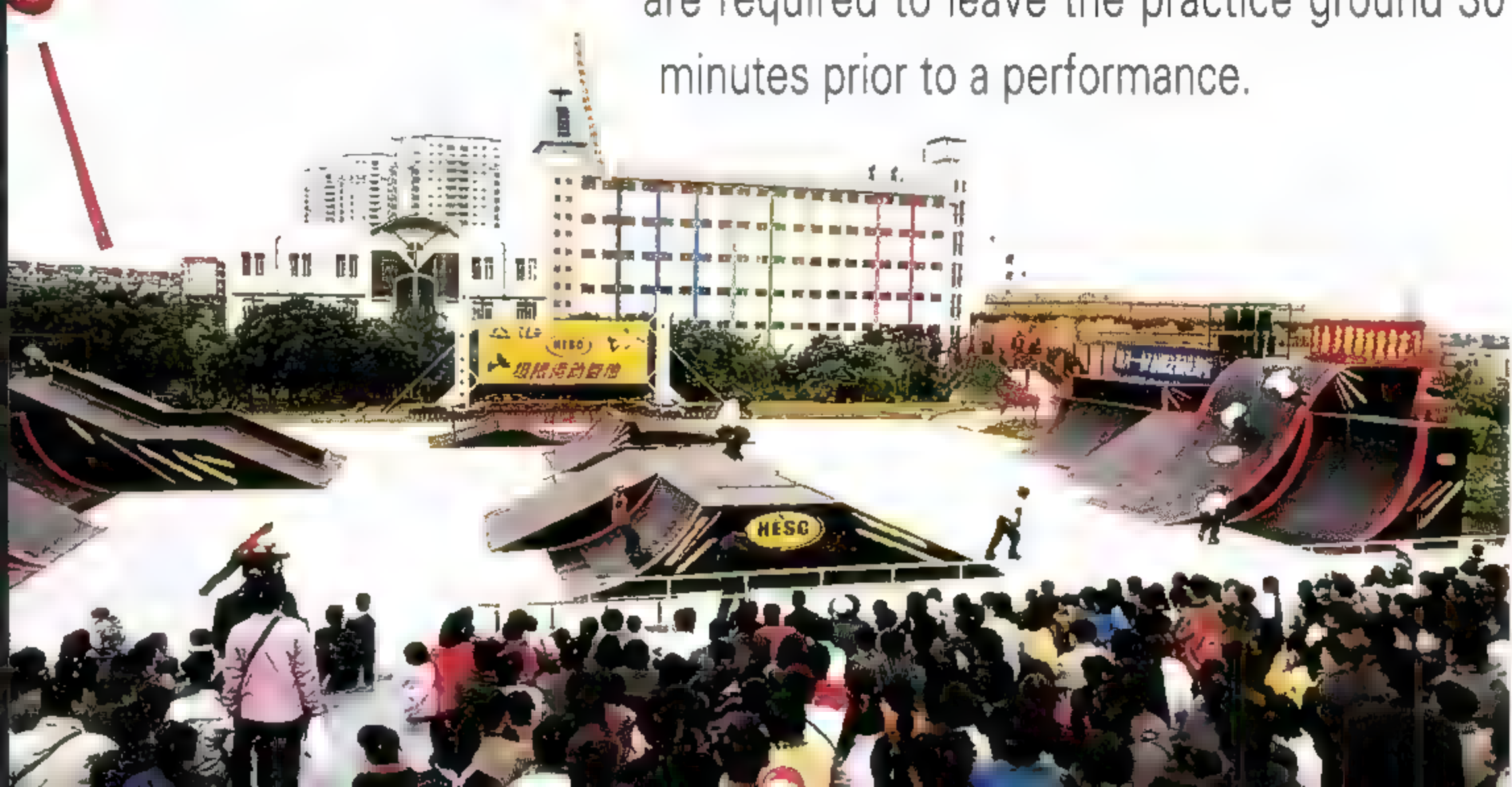
Moulder, the person in charge of Extreme Sports performances, was China's champion of the mini-bicycle competition in 2000. Soon after graduating from Shenzhen University, he entered the extreme sports industry. He believes the strong X-Game atmosphere created by HESC will allow both tourists and hobbyists to take in an authentic Western sports culture.

Opening hours of Happy Valley: 9:00-21:30.

Transport: Take a bus at the terminus near the Shangri-la Hotel Shenzhen. Duration: 30 minutes; Fare: 10 yuan.

Prospective HESC Club members should note the following:

1. The membership fee is 360 yuan per year, including unlimited use of the inside facilities (and selected Happy Valley games).
2. Mini-competitions will be held by the camp regularly, in order to strengthen and initiate members' skills.
3. The club has the authority to cancel the membership of anyone who visits the camp or attends competitions too few times.
4. The camp is closed on Mondays and rainy days. Members are required to leave the practice ground 30 minutes prior to a performance.



## Travel Route

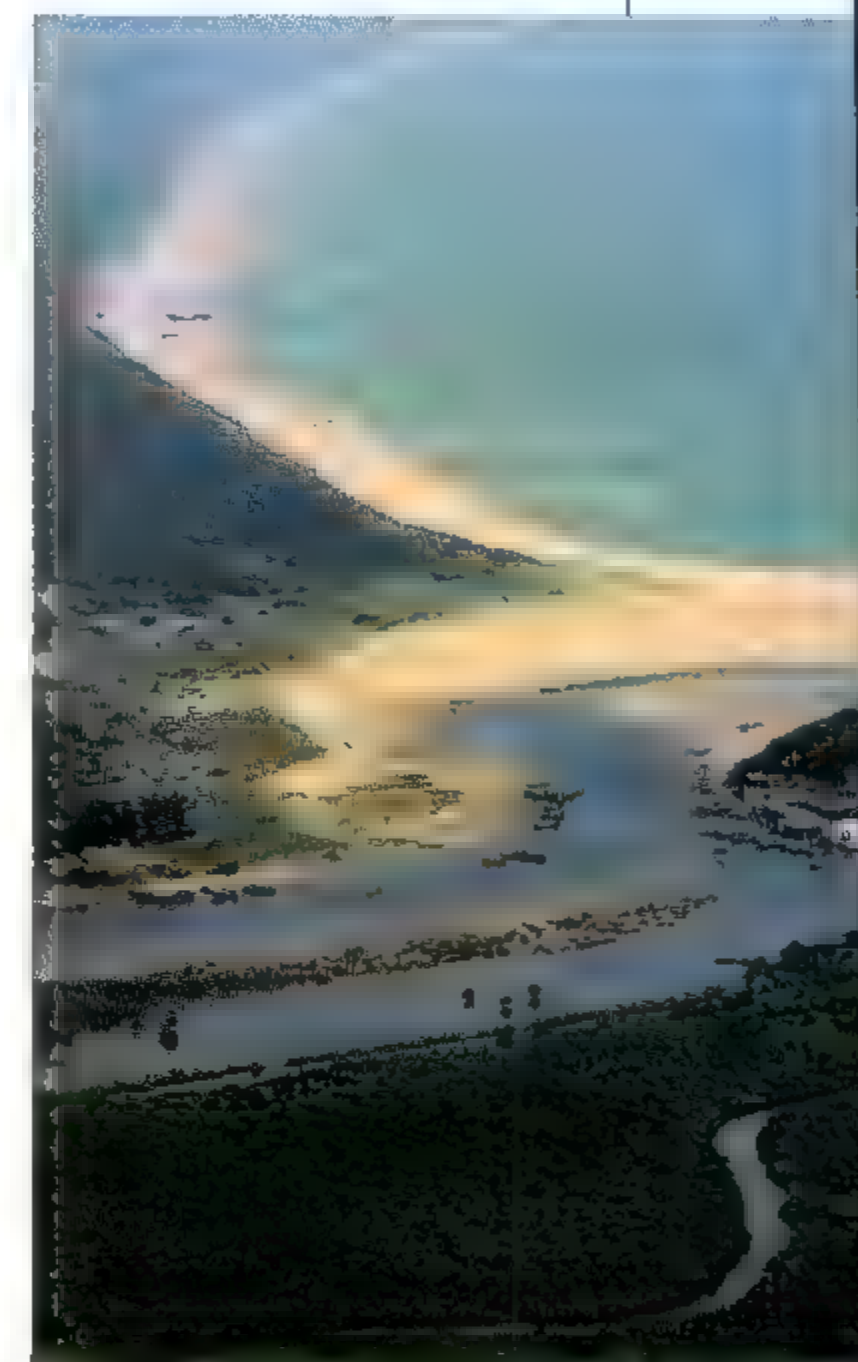
### Exploring the Tongguling National Nature Reserve

#### Hainan

Located at the very east of Hainan Island, 38 km from Wenchang, the Tongguling National Nature Reserve has three sides adjacent to the sea and a coastline of up to 20 km. The mountain has 18 peaks, the highest being 338 metres tall. From its top you can have a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains and waters. The landscape in this area has been a tourist attraction since ancient times. Other scenic spots inside this nature reserve include Yunlong Bay, a dreamland for swimmers with its soft sand and clear water, Stone Park, where one can see the strange stones weathered by the tides and off-shore winds, and a mangrove forest, where, besides the unique trees, one can also see fishes and crabs living in their own world.

This area of Hainan abounds in natural resources, such as white sandalwood, herbs, and seafood such as lobster, abalone and sea urchin. A highlight is the special local Zhegu tea, which is known for its healing properties in easing digestion and curing flu.

Transport: Fly to Haikou, take a bus to Wenchang (70 km) at the Bus Terminus, 11-15 yuan, and change to another bus to Tongguling.



## Hotel

### Opening of the St. Regis Shanghai

#### Shanghai

A new hotel, St. Regis Shanghai, located in the Pudong New Development Area, will open this July. Just 35 minutes from the Pudong International Airport, the 38-storey complex will be the first international luxury hotel to open in "the Pearl of China" in the new century. It boasts a distinctively modern and sleek architectural design, with a roof in the shape of the city flower of Shanghai, the white magnolia.

St. Regis Shanghai provides 318 guestrooms, including 48 suites. Deluxe guestroom amenities include a fully stocked mini bar, cable colour TV with in-room movies, electronic lock, personal safety box, smart desk with a Herman Miller "Aeron" chair that adjusts to the body's curve, and a custom-designed "pillow-top" mattress.

St. Regis will also introduce its renowned personal Butler Service to Shanghai. Other services include five restaurants and lounges, over 1,000 square metres of banquet and meeting spaces and facilities, business centre, extensive health club and recreational facilities, beauty salon and retail outlets. It will be an ideal place for tourists and business travellers in Shanghai.







**New Spot**

## 'Colourful Yunnan', a Comprehensive Tourist Service Mall

**Yunnan**

Situated 12 km from Kunming alongside the highway between Kunming and the Stone Forest, the Colourful Yunnan project was sponsored by a Singaporean enterprise. It is built as a complex combining shops selling souvenirs, sightseeing, dining and accommodation. The spot boasts a commercial zone selling jade and jewellery, a gallery collecting Yunnan paintings, Dai-style buildings, a pillar of the Sun God worshipped by the Yi people, a pond where fish are released and the Yixinyuan Hotel.

The hotel can serve as many as 1,200 diners at the same time. It models the style of a royal French theatre. Folk dance shows are performed during lunch and dinner everyday. A total number of 30,000 natural jades are exhibited in the Jade Museum. Quality commodities of distinguished Yunnan customs are exhibited in the handicraft display. The paintings and calligraphy works by famous artists are displayed in the art gallery. Lifelike statues of characters from *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* are established at the fish-releasing pond, where people return fish to the water as an expression of good will.

(Photo & article by Liang Juqiao)

**New Spot**

## Expanded Shenyuan Garden Opens, Shaoxing

**Zhejiang**

Travellers going to Shaoxing in East China's Zhejiang Province should not miss a new tourist destination there that opened on April 20 this year — the Shenyuan Garden.

Based on careful planning, design and construction work, the third phase of the garden's expansion project has extended the garden from one hectare to four hectares. The garden, mainly featuring Song-dynasty garden architecture in southern China, is divided into South Park and East Park.

The South Park focuses on the life and works of Lu You, a famous patriotic poet of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). Structures inside the park include Wuguan Hall, Anfeng Hall, Lianli Garden, and the wells of Xuanhe and Jiading. The Lu You Memorial Museum situated in this park has also been renovated. In the memorial hall, in addition to Lu's poems and other works, the touching love story between the poet and his female cousin, Tang Wan, is also introduced. Lu and Tang were forced to separate soon after their happy marriage because of the strong objection of their parents. The East Park, with exquisitely built towers, pavilions and bridges, strives to create a poetic ambience.

The picturesque Shenyuan Garden was a famous private mansion belonging to the Shen family during the Southern Song Dynasty.

Address: 318 Lu Xun Road, Shaoxing, Zhejiang;

Tel: (575) 806 3863.

**Travel**

## Immerse Yourself in the Detian Waterfall

**Guangxi**

Situated in Shuolong Town, Daxin County, southwest of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Detian Waterfall is honoured as "Asia's Number One International Waterfall". Bordering China and Vietnam, it stretches out over 100 metres wide, then divides into numerous cascades that feed in from the northern, eastern and western sections to form a U-shaped trough.

Visitors can follow the mountain trail, where the grass is luxuriant, in Shuolong Town directly down to the Detian Waterfall. From the top of the cliff where the waterfall begins, one can see the Guichun River slashing and chopping its way down from the northern to the southern edge. When the water hits the vertical cliff wall of Putang Islet head-on, it splits up into numerous foamy rapids that spill over the cliff and plunge into a 40-metre abyss.

The best time to take a tour to the Detian Waterfall is from summer to autumn. Rainfall is abundant during these seasons, and the Guichun River flowing alongside the fall swells up powerfully, creating a magnificent and raging spectacle.

Around the waterfall are also many other interesting scenic spots, such as the Sandianling Waterfall, Tonghei Waterfall and Aibu Waterfall.

Visitors from Hong Kong can fly from the territory to Beihai, then take a vehicle to Nanning (half-day). Visitors are advised to ask in advance whether there are direct buses to Detian or not. Tourists can also join an organised cross-border (China-Vietnam) tour, by going through certain procedures.





## Events

### The 18th International Kite Festival, Weifang

**Shandong** The 18th International Kite Festival will be held from April 20-25 in Weifang, Shandong Province in East China. Weifang is known as "home of kites". The kites produced in this area are colourful and exquisitely made, their designs and paintings carrying the folk traditions and customs.

Every year, representatives of kite associations from more than 30 countries around the world attend the annual event and compete in kite flying. Visitors can also opt to take part in making the kites. All participants in the event are invited to the grand bonfire party afterwards.

You can also visit the Kite Museum or explore the Yangjiabu village, where folk craftsmen display their skills in kite-making and wood-block printing. Transport: fly to Jinan and take a long-distance bus to Weifang (two hours).

## New Spot

### The Heaviest Clock Marking the 21st Century

**Tianjin** A new landmark of Tianjin, this giant Century Clock stands on a lawn west of the Tianjin Railway Station and close to the Jiefang Bridge on the Haihe River. The metal timepiece weighs 170 tons and stands 40 metres tall, being the heaviest and tallest of its kind in China. The total area of the quartz case alone is 154 square metres. Twelve bronze relief sculptures are inlaid on the clock face with a diameter of 14 metres, each 2.6 metres tall and representing one of the horoscope symbols. On the left side of the clock face is a huge S-shaped pendulum, while assembled beneath it are a number of big and small exposed cogs. The clock is at its most eye-catching when illuminated at night.

(Photo & article by Wang Jun)



## Travel Route

### Rejoice in the Jinjiling Scenic Area

**Guangdong** The Jinjiling (Golden Chicken Ridge) Scenic Area, situated north of Pingshi Town in Lechang City, is regarded as one of the eight great scenic spots of Guangdong Province. Hong Xuanjiao, younger sister of Hong Xiuquan, leader of the Heavenly Kingdom Uprising, once led a group of 2,000-plus soldiers to guard the town here and fought against the Qing army in 1852. Such historical sites as training grounds, watchtowers, command posts and weapon caves can still be found on the mountain today.

There are mountain trails leading to the top from the four different directions, each reaching a gate built with a city tower. Travellers usually take the trail on the east side, which is comparatively wide and flat. The west route is the most arduous and one has to negotiate a slope with a gradient of 70-80 degrees. In some sections it is so narrow that they allow only one person through at a time. However, this is also the short cut to reach the Golden Chicken Stone via the Heavenly Ladder. Walking towards the east, you will pass the Chaoyang Pavilion and reach Xuanjiao Tower, the living quarter of Hong Xuanjiao.

The cliff top near the Wangjing Pavilion in the east offers a panoramic view of the area. Opposite is the famous Paigang Cliffs, a row of strangely shaped peaks that seem to have been chopped out by a magic axe. Continuing southward, you will see a group of stone statues of ancient warriors. Allegedly, this was where Hong Xuanjiao trained her soldiers. Then, on the flat top of the 130-metre-high Yizi Peak, extending over 400 metres long and between three and six metres wide, you will find the Shengqing (Defeating Qing) Pavilion. Yizi Peak stands as a natural protective wall of Jinjiling. From the top of the ridge, you can have a panoramic view of Pingshi Town, Wushui River and the surrounding landscape. The scenery at dusk is the most beautiful. Descending the mountain from the East Gate, you will come across a number of stone carvings left by literati of past times.

Rafting was recently introduced here and has become a popular activity in summer, bringing excited tourists flocking to the nine pools and 18 shoals at the foot of Jinjiling. But for others, autumn (September-December) might be a more suitable time to visit, or even January and February, when the winter snow has made its appearance.

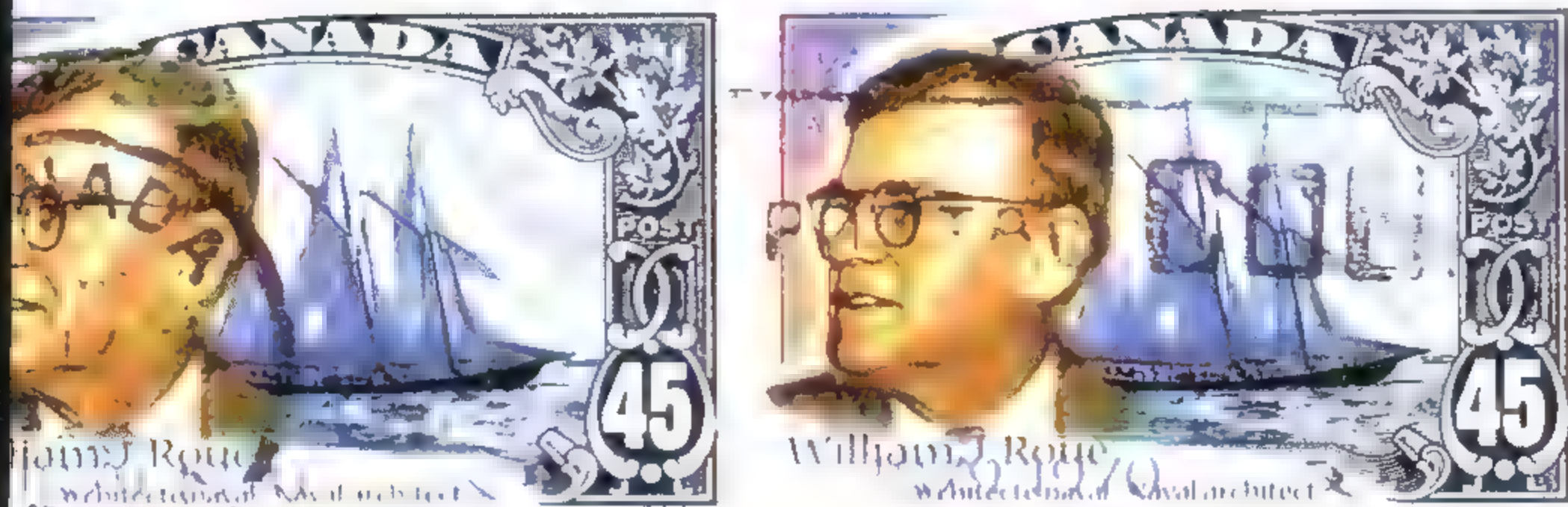
Transport: Take a train from Foshan to Pingshi at Guangzhou (T352, 8:20 setting off from Guangzhou), 4 hours. The train stops only in Shaoguan and Lechang.

Suggested accommodation: Jinji Hotel, 180-300 yuan/two-bed room.

Admission: 20 yuan (including a map). (Photo & article by Mo Guohua)







**O**n this regular page we include letters and comments received from our readers. We welcome and value all suggestions, praise, criticism and questions from our readers anytime. Please post, fax or E-mail your letters and comments to us (details at the bottom of this page).

## LETTERS

I have been reading the magazine for years and very often, I choose my travel destinations in China according to the instructions given in "China Tourism". I'm glad that you are now paying more attention to the maps and providing a detailed map for each feature story. It can be difficult for a foreigner not familiar with Chinese to locate a place whose name is usually pronounced strangely. In some cases, though, a tourist sketch map is clearer and more useful for the traveller than a copy of any published map. Please keep in mind that the reader is looking for the travel route, and doesn't need the administration division of every county and township in a location.

The other improvement I would like to see is for you to avoid putting captions on the pictures themselves. In most cases, a caption printed on a photo spoils the picture and is difficult to read.

G. F, San Francisco, USA

### Editor's reply:

Thank you for your comments and suggestions, which we very much appreciate. We'll endeavour to avoid cluttering up our reference maps with superfluous information in the future. We agree with your point about the captions, too, and usually try to list them separately from the photos. However, space restrictions sometimes give us no choice but to do so. We'll try to find alternatives wherever possible. We hope you will continue to enjoy "China Tourism".

Let me congratulate China Tourism for again a wonderful and very informative issue, namely No 249. I was especially interested in the articles on the Buddha's Aura Temple at Wutai Mountain, on Spring Festival celebrations and photographing in snow. Although I've now travelled 20 times to China, I always learn new facts in "China Tourism".

As a regular reader, I have the following opinions and suggestions about the travel tips. For do-it-yourself travellers like me, tips are very practical and important. I always regard them as the guidelines when going on trips to China, whether for personal or commercial purposes. However, to a certain extent, the tips could be more concise, as some parts are not so easily accessible for quick reference. Sometimes, the word spacing is too tight for easy reading, too. It would be especially helpful if you could comment specifically on the quality of budget accommodation, as this takes some of the guesswork out of it for us. But all in all, "China Tourism" is a quality magazine that my friends and I enjoy reading. Keep it up!

Lisa, Hong Kong

### Editor's reply:

Thank you for writing to us. It is always encouraging to get such positive responses from our readers. We are delighted that "China Tourism" is both informative and an enjoyable read for you.

### Editor's reply:

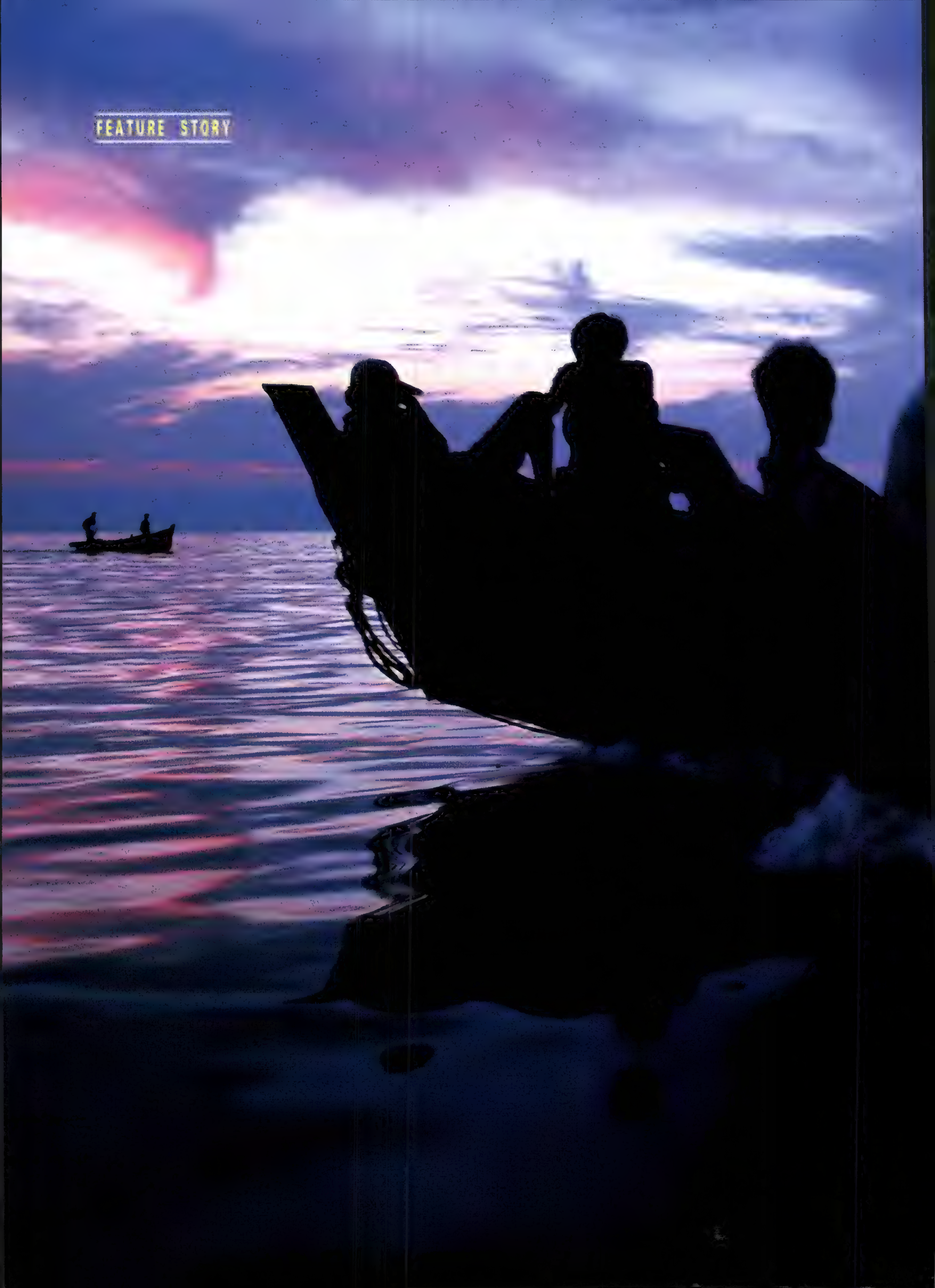
Thanks for writing to us, Lisa, and for your constructive comments. You're right, sometimes it's difficult to balance the amount of information we want to include with the limited amount of space available, which can lead to overcrowding. In the future, we'll try to make sure we don't defeat the purpose by squeezing in too much. We have noted your idea regarding more information on the quality of budget hotels too, and will pass it on to our travelling reporters.

Please send your letters to:

Hong Kong China Tourism Press, English Department, 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2561 8057, 2561 8196 E-mail: edit-e@hkctp.com.hk



FEATURE STORY







# Jiaodong Peninsula

# A Land of Surging Waves and

# Fantastic Legends

*Photos & article by Xie Guanghui*

Occupying the eastern part of Shandong Province, the Jiaodong Peninsula protrudes into the vast stretch of waters between the Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea. As China's largest peninsula, it boasts a long and twisting coastline. The dramatic temperament of the sea has given rise to many legends associated with the seaside towns and islands of the peninsula, shrouding it in myth and mystery.

The roaring waves have endowed the local people with an intrinsic stamina to deal with untold peril and hardship. Yet those same waves have brought the people immeasurable joy and good fortune.

The all-embracing nature of the sea has added infinite colour to life on the remote tip of the peninsula.



天津市 Tianjin

渤海灣 Bohai Bay

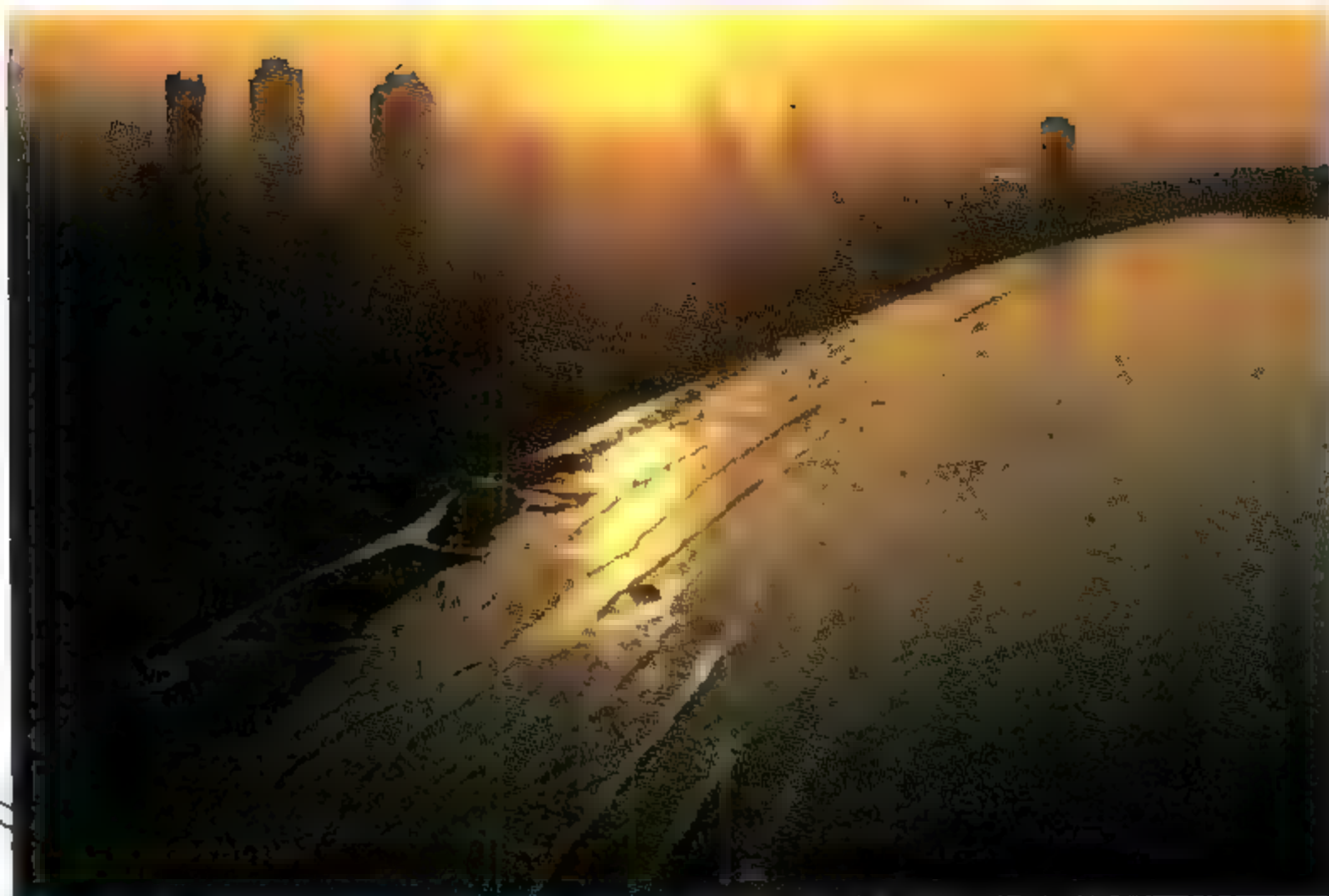
渤海 Bohai

河

北

Hebei  
Province

省



On the seashore of Yantai



Pengla Tower

東營市 Dongying

德州市 Dezhou

Beijing-Shanghai Express Way  
京滬高速公路

Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal  
京杭運河

Yellow River  
黃河

博興 Boxing

桓臺 Huatai

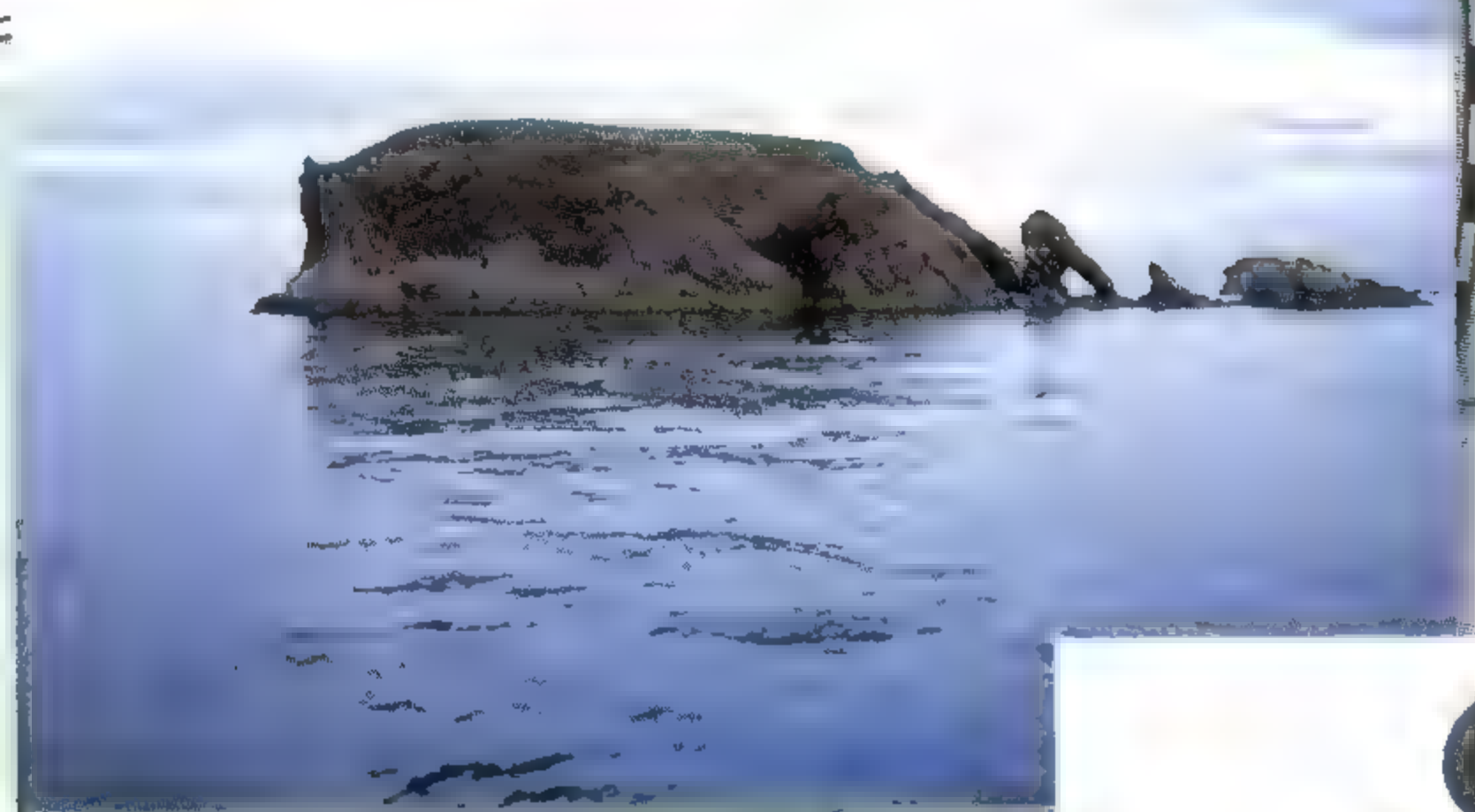
淄博市 Zibo

章丘市 Zhangqiu

濟南市 Jinan

青島 Qingdao

Kongdong Island



聊城市 Liaocheng

泰安市 Tai'an

肥城市 Feicheng

萊蕪市 Laiwu

新泰市 Xintai

曲阜市 Qufu

兗州市 Yanzhou

山東 Shandong Province

鄒城市 Zoucheng

濟寧市 Jining

荷澤市 Heze

Yellow River  
黃河

南

Henan  
Province

安徽省



Statue of Ding Ruchang

棗莊市 Zaozhuang

臨沂市 Linyi



Where the Yellow River enters the sea



# Tourist Map of the Jiaodong Peninsula

渤海海峡  
Bohai Strait

北長山島 N. Changshan Island  
南長山島 S. Changshan Island  
長島 Changdao Islands

Chengshantou

黃河入海口  
Yellow River Mouth



Liugong Island



Fishing Harbour of Shidao

黃 Yellow Sea 海



Where seas meet



A stele on Yunfeng Mountain

- 膠東半島之旅線路  
travel route
- 高速公路  
expressway
- 一般公路  
highway

連雲港市  
Lianyungang  
江蘇省  
Jiangsu Province





# Penglaige:

## Fairyland in a Mortal World

**“What is most significant about a mountain is not its height, but whether it has immortals — that is what brings it fame.”** This well-known line written by Tang-dynasty poet Liu Yuxi might easily have been written for Penglaige, a group of buildings that include the Penglai Pavilion.

Every morning, outside the entrance to the scenic spot of Penglaige, tourist buses pull up one after another in front of the archway. Guides holding little flags lead colourfully dressed tourists through the archway and into a fairyland in a mortal world.

A few years ago when the Three Gorges Project of the Yangtse River started, Fengdu, also known as the Ghost City, became very popular for a while. According to Chinese tradition, when people die, they would register with the King of Hell who would judge whether they should be sent to Heaven or cast into the Nether World, depending on their behaviour during their lifetime. The Ghost City of Fengdu features a series of structures illustrating life in the other world, including the Life and Death Bridge, a structure representing the entrance to the Hell of 18 Layers, with horrific scenes of people being carved up and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil... a ghastly sight. But Penglaige is totally different. People come here because it is claimed to be a place where immortals meet.

### Su Dongpo Missed the Mirage

The Penglai Pavilion was first built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Before that, on that same spot on Danya Hill had stood a three-room thatched hut known as the Sea God Temple. In 1061 during the Song Dynasty, Governor Zhu Chuyue of Dengzhou (present-day Penglai County) visited Danya Hill and found that the spot facing the Bohai Sea was an ideal place for people to enjoy nature. For this reason, he decided to build the Penglai Pavilion there. In 1590 of the Ming Dynasty, Li Dai, an Imperial Inspector, who was also fond of the hill, expanded the pavilion. In later years, the structure was renovated several times until it finally reached the scale we see today.

I crossed the Mishui Bridge and followed a slate-paved path through thick foliage, then proceeded through the Linxian Gate and along a cobble-strewn path, where I came to the Tianhou (Heavenly Empress) Palace. Walking out of its east gate, I reached the foot of the Penglai Pavilion. It is a two-storey structure, smaller than I had expected. The whole building is neatly and exquisitely built, without the use of nails or screws, but joined by brackets, yet it is solid and magnificent. Stone steles, horizontal boards and antithetical couplets

on pillars can be seen inside and outside the building, indicating many renowned figures of the past had visited the place and left their lines. Leaning on the balustrade on the second floor, I could see other structures below: the Bifeng (Wind Avoiding) Pavilion and the Chengbi (Azure) Tower in the west; the Wobei (Reclining Stele) Pavilion, Lord Su's Hall, Binri (Sunny) Tower and the Puzhao (Universal Sunlight)

Tower in the east. Looking down, I saw sea waves dashing against the sheer rusty cliff, sending up snow like foam. It felt as if I were at the bow of a steamer braving the sea winds. Far in the distance, boats sailing in the sea resembled kites flying in the sky.

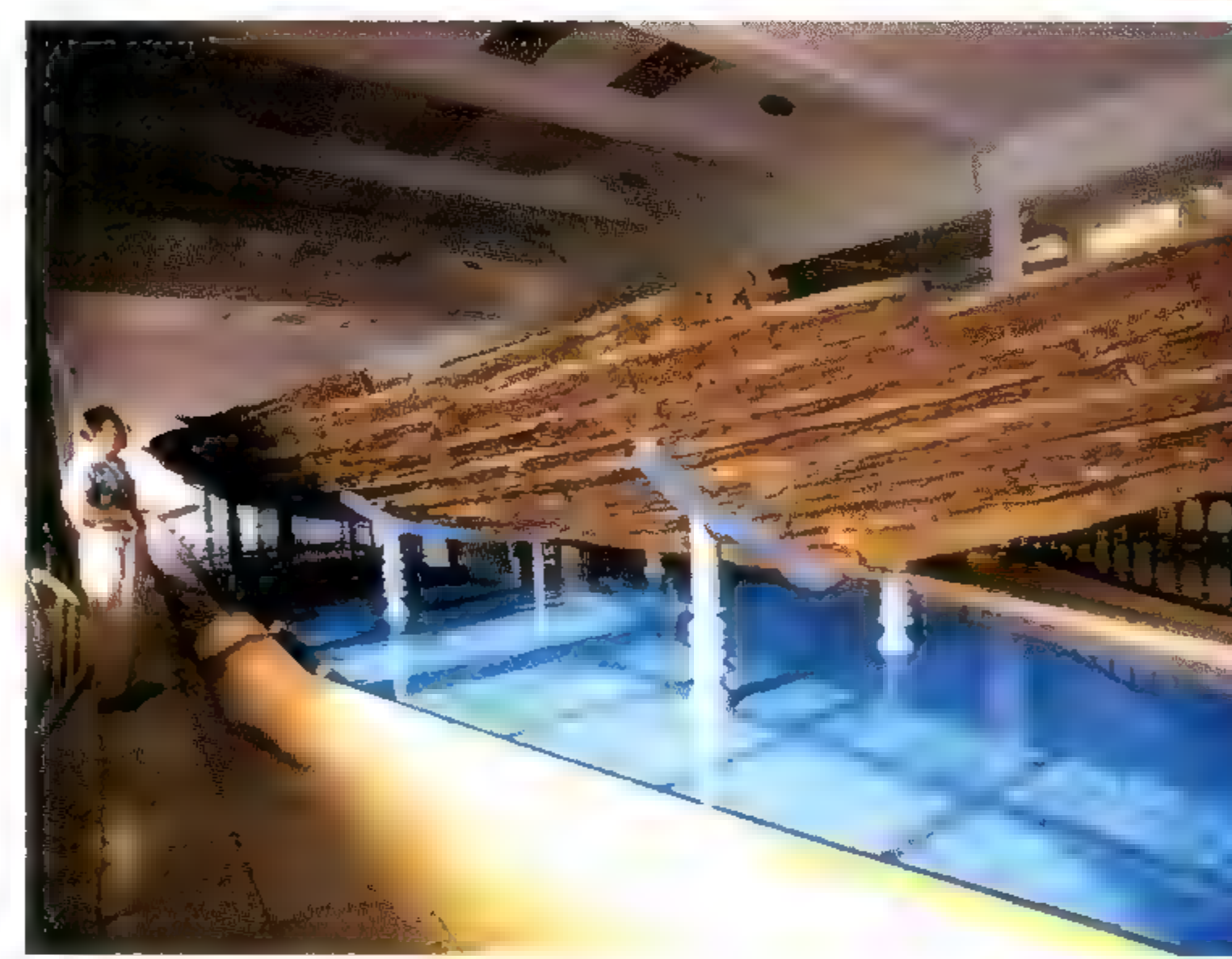
Penglai boasts 10 celebrated scenes, the best-known being the mirage in the sea. In 1085, Su Dongpo, a famous Song-dynasty poet, visited Penglai Pavilion. He wrote in his poem “Mirage of Dengzhou”:

Tier upon tier are the eastern clouds  
Where flocks of immortals come and go.  
Myriad images in their changing shapes,  
Can there be the Shell Tower hidden in the Pearl Palace?  
I know they are but mirages,  
How can my eyes and ears work such wonders?

I had assumed all along that Su Dongpo had seen the mirage. Only after I came across the foreword of this poem did I realise that it was not true. Su writes that he had heard about the mirage in Penglai for a long time, but when he was there, he learned from the local people that the mirage only showed up in spring and summer. As he was there around the end of the year, and he was on his way to take his office, he was not able to see it. Now I realised that Su Dongpo had never actually set eyes on the mirage.

### Mirage on the Sea — for the Lucky Ones

For years, the mirage has been a mystery to many people. In fact, it is a physical phenomenon in which light rays undergo refraction, i.e., are bent, as they pass between media of differing densities, causing optical illusions. Particularly in spring and summer, when the sea







3



4

Previous page: A fishing boat returning to the harbour at dusk.

1. The Heavenly Goddess enshrined in the temple in her name.
2. Inside the Museum of Ancient Boats established beside the Dengzhou Water City.
3. The brilliant night scene of Penglaige.
4. On the stone are carved the words: "Hometown of Qi Jiguang".

surface temperature is warm, sandwiched by the cold seawater and

the air at a higher layer, a phenomenon known as sea mirage, or superior mirage, occurs. Sometimes, the Changshan Islands, situated to the north of Penglai, is enveloped in an inversion layer. Light rays over the archipelago are bent, causing a changing image of the islands, very often bringing objects from far away on the horizon to appear right before our eyes. The inferior mirage usually happens in the desert, when the temperature of the ground is very hot. We may see an object's reflection lying beneath it. Shen Kuo of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) wrote in his "Notes by the Dream Brook", "At sea by Dengzhou, a haze or vapour often appears which shifts into the

shapes of palaces, towers, battlements, people, carriers and horses. This is what we call a 'mirage'."

To be frank, the chances of a tourist seeing a mirage are very slim. It depends entirely on good luck. A TV station based a

crew in Penglai for a whole year hoping to video-record a mirage. They failed to do so and eventually had to return disappointed. Not long ago, a TV play was being filmed at the Penglai Pavilion. Shortly after the performers changed into their costumes, a mirage appeared. While the director gaped with astonishment, the cameraman was very cool and instantly captured this rare sight. The latter story gives great encouragement and hope to all tourists to Penglai.

### 'Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea'

The Penglai Pavilion houses a group of sculptures depicting the Eight Immortals, the mythic characters, who are said to have crossed the sea from here. The story has it that one day the Eight Immortals had a party at the Penglai Pavilion. After downing a few cups of wine, they challenged one another to get to Miaodao Island across the sea





without taking a boat. So, they set off, displaying each one's unique skill — Han Zhongli sailing on a palm fan; Lü Dongbin holding a duster; Han Xiangzi playing his flute; Lan Caihe carrying a large basket of flowers; Zhang Guolao riding a donkey backwards; Li Tieguai wearing a large gourd at his side; Cao Guojiu holding a jade slip; and He Xiangli holding a pink lotus flower in her hand. This is the origin of the proverb, *ge xian shen tong*, meaning each shows his or her special ability.

### **Dengzhou Water City: Strategic Fortress and Major Port**

The waters of Dengzhou Water City skirt past the hill where the Penglai Pavilion stands. It was originally designed as a moat to run around the compound of Penglai. At the point where the moat was wider, called Little Sea, a port was built and it eventually became a 70,000-square-metre harbour for big ships and gunboats. A dike with an entrance was built at the estuary of the harbour. In the past, only when the iron-coated wooden sluice gate was lifted could a ship sail into the harbour. Today only two posts laid with bricks and rocks remain.

Facing the sluice gate on the inner side was a scientifically designed breakwater built against a hillock, laid with square-shaped rocks. When there was a sea storm and water surged towards the breakwater, waves would be stopped and dashed back towards the west where a solid dike stood. By then the waves would have lost their momentum and grown calm. No matter how ferocious the waves might be out at sea, the water within the harbour was always calm. The breakwater also functioned as a screen. Looking in from the sea, all that was visible was a tall wall. The enemy would not dare to risk an attack, while the defenders were in a position to launch a sudden attack at any time. To the east and west ends of the sluice gate each stands a cannon battlement, from where whatever is happening at the water gate is clearly visible.

Until today, nobody knows who designed the Water City. The famous anti-Japanese general Qi Jiguang of the Ming Dynasty was a native of Dengzhou. His ancestors for six generations had been the military commander stationed here. Although it was not in Dengzhou





### Alchemists Helped Promote Penglai

When dusk falls, the illuminated Penglai Pavilion and wall of the Water City are reflected in the rippling water like a mirage in the desert; a sight Su Dongpo would have dearly loved to see. In fact, as far back as in the early Qin Dynasty (221-206 B. C.), Penglai was a place dukes and princes longed to visit. In the ancient days, people were unable to explain the phenomenon of the mirage, which led to many fantasies. Alchemists of the kingdoms of Yan and Qi capitalised on the mirage, spreading the notion that there existed a magic mountain in the sea on which an elixir grew. As a result, the first emperor of Qin and Emperor Wudi of Han both visited Penglai in search of longevity.

Wasn't it, then, that alchemists of the early Qin brought about Penglai's fame and the emperors of Shihuang and Wudi pioneered tourism in this area?



1. Dengzhou Water City is a magnificent defence establishment on the sea.
2. Statues of the Eight Immortals displayed in the Penglai Pavilion.
3. The Dengzhou Water City is built with a moat, which was transformed from a river mouth.

that Qi achieved his glory, he was brought up there and influenced by the military environment. His hometown undoubtedly provided a good foundation for his later heroic merits in fighting against the Japanese invaders.

Dengzhou Water City was not only a place of strategic importance but also a hub of sea transport. Dengzhou was one of the four major posts during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), together with Guangzhou, Quanzhou and Yangzhou. Records show that during the Ming Dynasty, the deep docks of the Water City were full of boats, many of them big enough to carry several hundred tons of goods. It was not until the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) that Dengzhou port went into decline, largely due to Yantai's rise to significance in that part of the country.

### Tips for the Traveller

#### Transport

The most convenient route is from Yantai to Penglai, a distance of 73 km. Buses are available at the Yantai Long-Distance Bus Terminal and the Beimalu Bus Terminal. A bus sets off every 15-20 minutes from 5:30-17:30; rate: 10 yuan; 90 minutes.

#### Accommodation

##### Penglai Baxianju Hotel \*\*\*

Address: 3 Seaside Road, Penglai; Tel: (535) 564 3553; Rate: 320 yuan/standard room.

##### Penglai Hotel \*\*

Address: 59 Dengzhou Road, Penglai; Tel: (535) 565 5288; Rate: 280-320 yuan/standard room.

##### Yinpeng Conference and Training Centre

Address: 1 Gongyu Road, Penglai; Tel: (535) 564 8418; Rate: 288 yuan/standard room.

#### Sightseeing

##### The Penglai Tourist Area:

Opening hours: 7:30-17:30; Admission: 55 yuan; Best tourist season: from May to October.

Penglai is situated at the top of Danya Hill on the coast in the north part of Penglai. In addition to the Penglai Pavilion, the complex includes several other ancient buildings, such as the Maitreya Temple, the Dragon King's Hall, Zisun Hall, Heavenly Goddess' Palace, Three-Purity Hall and Master Lü's Hall. It is the site where the legendary Eight Immortals "crossed the sea".



# Changdao:

## Fairy Mountains in the Sea

If you stand on Danya Mountain where the Penglaige complex is located and look towards the north, you will notice that the vast expanse of the sea is dotted with islands. As a mirage can be observed in that direction, ancient alchemists reported this to the emperor, claiming that fairy mountains existed in the sea. That was why Emperor Shihuang of the Qin and Emperor Wudi of the Han both travelled a long distance from their capital to this part of their territory, in the hope of seeing the fairy mountains and finding the elixir for longevity. The so-called fairy mountains refer to the present-day Changdao Islands, which consists of 32 islands including, to name a few, the South Changshan, North Changshan, Miaodao, Duoji and Houji. The northernmost one, North Huangcheng Island, lies very close to Lüshun at the tip of Liaodong Peninsular.

### Visit to a Fishing Village

We boarded a boat bound for Changdao and landed on a dock at the South Changshan Island. However, the fishing harbour was deserted, with some dark blue fishing boats moored there but no people found. I ventured into a village and knocked on the doors of a few houses, but there was no response. Finally an elderly woman poked her head out when I was at her door. "Who are you looking for?" she asked. I explained earnestly, "I'm a tourist and just want to have a look at the village." She sized me up and said, pointing to the thatched roof, "No one lives in huts like this any more. The villagers have all moved to the other side." I turned around and noticed some red-roofed houses in the distance across a highway. They looked like villas rather than rural residential houses. I looked over her shoulder and saw only a screen wall. This aroused my curiosity. I insisted, "But I do want to see the old fishing village." She finally smiled and said, "It's just an old house, what's there to see?" Still smiling, she stood back and let me in.

Behind the screen wall was a small courtyard, which was piled with many abandoned fishing nets and black plastic balls, each as large as a basketball, which would have functioned as marker buoys. At one corner lay two peeling black-painted oars, over which hung a loose black Chinese tunic. Another corner where there was a drain was covered with a layer of moss. "Watch out, it's slippery," she warned me from behind. Having crossed the open space, I entered the sitting room. To its left was a kitchen and to its right a bedroom. As is common practice in the northern country, against the southern wall under the window was a brick bed. In the middle of the bed sat a small

table. There was also a cupboard, a cabinet and a table in the room. They were all Ming-style pieces of furniture with simple lines. The stove in the kitchen was edged with wood, something I had never seen before. The washing basins were all made of bronze. All of this indicated that life in this small island was relatively comfortable. The place smelled mouldy. When I asked her why she did not move as her neighbours had, her smile disappeared instantly and she said, "I've been living here for 63 years. Why should I move?" Her dry lips quivered. This 81-year-old lady was named Jiang Yuemei. She had a



son and a daughter. When she was 22, a typhoon at sea took her husband's life. She managed to carry on and did not marry again. Now that her grandchildren

were married, she missed her man even more than before. Perhaps this was the true reason why she did not want to move.



### 'Fun in a Fishing Home' Scheme

I crossed the highway and came to the house of the old woman's son. The door was wide open and covered by a curtain of transparent plastic strips. The spotless courtyard was paved with colourful slates, and over it was draped a white nylon net with tiny mesh. It kept away all the flies and mosquitoes. The dazzling summer sunlight became soft and gentle as it cascaded through the net. Along the wall were some golden chrysanthemums and purple cockscomb blossoms, adding immense charm to the courtyard. A smiling young couple came out to greet me. "Is your father home?" I asked. This made them both double up with laughter. "We're visitors too," they replied. The young woman tried to





1. Characteristic rocks in the sea around the Changdao Islands.
2. An old-fashioned house in a fishing village.
3. Pagoda Rock at dusk.
4. Tourists can stay with a fisherman's family while visiting Changdao.

stop laughing and straightened up to shout, "Auntie, you've got a visitor!" I learned later on that the villagers had launched a scheme called "Fun in a Fishing Home". For 50 yuan per day, tourists can stay in a fisherman's home with accommodation and three meals. If they are not afraid of seasickness, they can even opt to join the fisherman on a sea trip.

Out came Jiang Yuemei's daughter-in-law. A plump woman with a loud voice, she started a lecture on the island, talking about the Crescent Moon Bay, Jade Street, Pagoda Reef, and Jiuzhang Cliff.... Anxious to

know about fishing, I broke in, "When can we go fishing?" She was stunned at first and then lowered her tone, "Fishing is not allowed in July, August and September, bah...." She seemed to be sorry for me as well as for herself. "So there is no seafood?" I asked. "Of course there is. There's the fish that's raised in the fisheries." With that, she turned to go.

### Treasure-trove on the Sea

"Changdao is quite unique, because it lies on the border between the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea," said the Manager of the Aquiculture Base, Zhao Weiming. Following his finger, I saw a clear line where the two seas met. The water of the Bohai Sea is quite blue while that of the Yellow Sea is light brown. This is the entrance to the Bohai Sea and also the area where all the shoals of fish would pass on their way back from their migration. There are more than 30 types of fish, including chub mackerel, flounder, yellow croaker, hairtail, prawns and more than 100 algae such as kelp and laver. There are also more than 20 kinds of shells, including the precious ones of sea cucumber, abalone and sea urchin. Zhao stretched the thumb and the forefinger of his hand, forming a pair of pincers and waving it in the air. "But in the past, people had fished willfully," he said. "They used trawler nets with the mesh becoming smaller and smaller. In the end, all fish, whether big or small, were hauled. It caused a massive depletion of our fishing resources. Luckily the state interfered and put a stop to this practice."





His tone became more confident. "About 10 years ago, we took the lead in establishing an aquiculture base to raise sea products. We did some research and achieved remarkable results in artificial breeding and raising of scallops, sea cucumber, abalone, sea urchin, and many other varieties."

Abalone is not strange to those who are fond of seafood. It is delicious and highly nutritious. There are over 70 types of abalone and China has only two: wrinkled abalone and mottled abalone. The wrinkled abalone is distributed along the coast of the Liaodong Peninsula and Jiaodong Peninsula. The mottled abalone is distributed in those seas with a tropical climate in the Indian and Pacific oceans. It is available in China's Hainan, Guangdong, Fujian and Taiwan.

Oval-shaped, an abalone clings to a reef with its muscular foot at the bottom of the water or inside a rock cranny during the day and comes out at night to catch tiny creatures in the water for its food. Its habit makes it extremely difficult to photograph. Zhao led me into a damp, dimly lit room. He put on a pair of rubber gloves and took out a wire cage from a pool bubbling by means of an oxygen pump. "These are red abalone introduced from the United States. Abalone are afraid of light." He urged me to take my photos as quickly as possible.

Manager Zhao had his reasons for being careful and prudent. His Aquiculture Base is as large as half the size of a football ground. It has more than 10 rows of cement tanks, each row holding a dozen two-



cubic-metre tanks. One third of the pools are used for raising abalone fry, about 10,000 for each tank. The price of one abalone fry the previous year was 0.70 yuan. There is no doubt that the tanks of abalone fry are Zhao's treasure-troves. Apart from the introduction of red abalone from the United States, Zhao's company has also imported from Japan the breeding and raising technologies for shrimps, scallops, sea urchins and sea cucumbers. Though the income from raising these precious species is remarkable, the investment is also considerable. Generally speaking, the water near the coast is murky and opaque because of the shallow



# Yantai: A Coastal City Both Chinese and Western

I woke up in the morning, stretched and made my way over to the window. A slight hangover from the night before turned everything into a blur, like when you are trying to take photographs on a hazy day. I looked down at the beach. The sun had risen above the sea, darting dazzling beams into my open eyes and leaving me dizzy and disoriented. I felt like a bird struck by lightning.

I regretted having drunk too much the night before. But then, I reasoned with myself, how could I have resisted drinking with friends I had met for the first time? Besides, Yantai is home to the producer of the great Changyu wine whose red wine captured the gold prize at the 1915 Panama International Expo. How could anyone resist the temptation of sampling it? The only thing to blame was my intolerance to alcohol.

I took a warm bath and the alcohol in my body seemed to have evaporated. I left the hotel and headed for the beach. Walking into the breeze sent forth by the sea waves, I noticed a light fishy taste in the air. Some large sunshades were lying on the ground like a group of drunkards.

Unlike in inland cities, the people in Yantai have a unique way of doing their morning exercises — they go swimming. It is mostly the middle-aged and old people who enjoy this sport in the morning. They come on their bikes — and fully prepared — their bike racks are laden with either buckets or large Coca-Cola bottles filled with clean water. They are already in swimwear. Once they are at the beach and have parked their bikes, they simply take off their jackets and trousers, stretch their limbs and walk down to the water. Unlike young people who love to stay on the beach, these swimmers do a few strokes then come ashore again. Uncorking the bottles, they pour the water over their heads, then jump up and down to shake the water off their bodies, towel themselves dry, put on their clothes and cycle off home or to their workplace. In summer Yantai is often troubled by drought and the water supply is rationed, which is why they bring their own shower water and use it so economically.

On the breakwater, I saw many people fishing, either standing, squatting or sitting, motionless, like a group of statues. Occasionally one or two of them would lift their fishing rods to hook on the bait. I watched for a while and seldom saw anybody succeed in catching

anything. I tried chatting with them but in most cases the response was no more than a resigned sigh.

## The Oldest Bowling Alley in Asia

At the end of Seaside Road is the Yantai Hill Park. Originally the location of foreign consulates and missions, this area maintains many European-style villas. The present Taihe Seafood Restaurant is an English style house built in 1865. It once served as the Chefoo Club for British businessmen and other overseas British residents. Later, embassy officials and businessmen from other countries also often came here to party, turning the place into a club for all foreigners in Yantai. Stairs lead down to the underground chamber of the house. As my eyes slowly adapted to the dim light in the chamber, an old two-lane bowling alley presented itself. A waitress produced a red ball, took a few quick steps and gracefully sent it rolling along the bowling lane.

The sound of clattering tenpins followed. A strike! To our amazement, when the tenpins were repositioned, the red ball rolled back along the lane towards us. Never would I have expected that more than 130 years ago, the British were able to design a bowling alley, which, in the absence of electrical equipment, would use the inertia of the ball to facilitate its return.



"Come and have a go at Asia's oldest bowling alley!" The hostess invited us all.

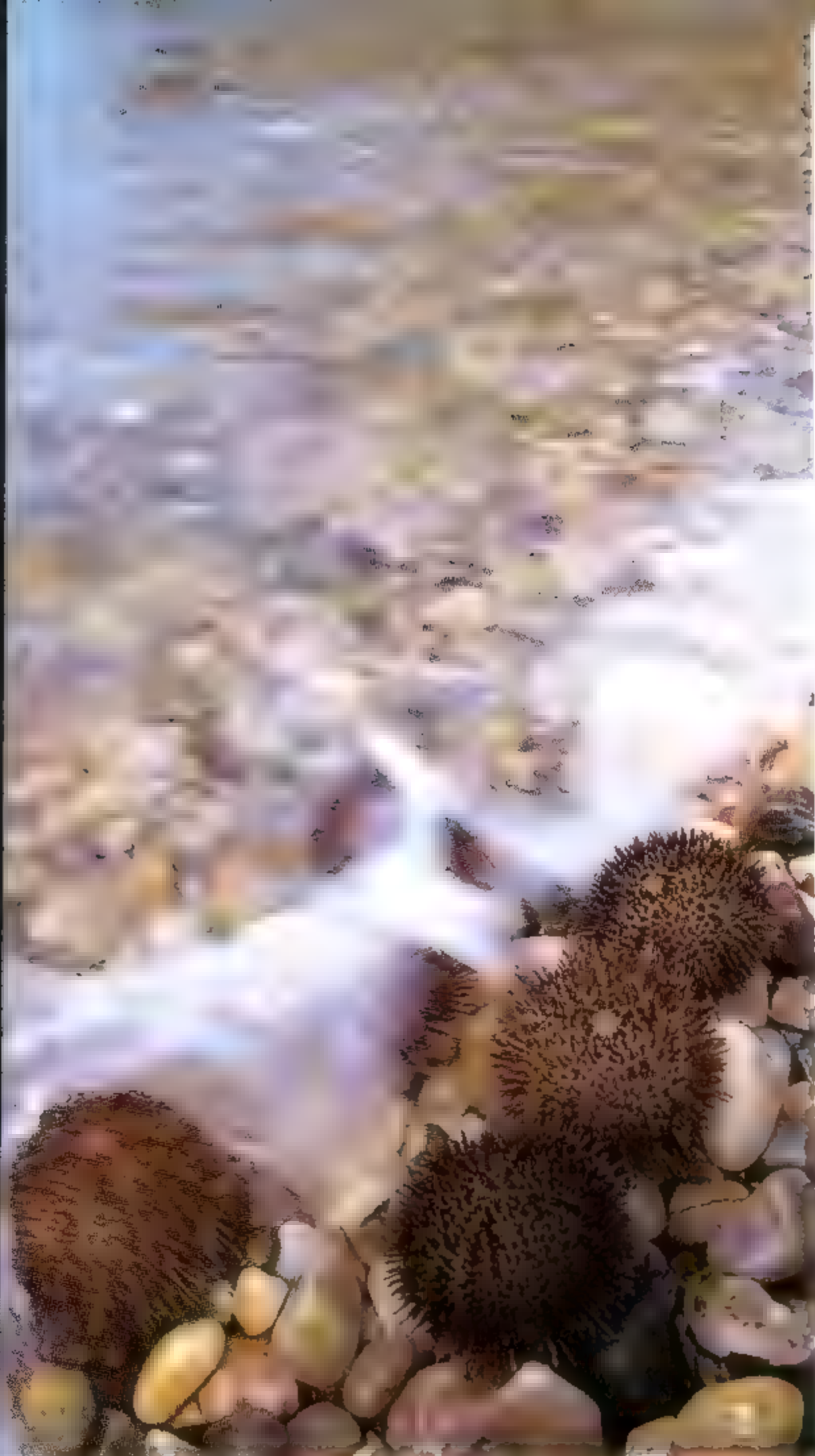
"This is truly a cultural relic," I remarked.

"That's right. It was listed in 1987 as a city-level cultural relic," she replied, then added sheepishly, "but it was renovated last year."

## Life of the Lighthouse Tenders

I took a speedboat to Kongdong Island. On the way, the thrashed against the underside of the boat as if they were tearing it into pieces. The splashes thrown up by the frogs lashed back onto the passengers like a cold and wet blanket. The contour of the island gradually came into view.





nature of the sea. Sand or dirt in this water might block the pores of some shells and algae, or prevent them from taking in nutrition and sunlight. If a fishery is set far out in the sea, it would be deeper and the water would be clean and swift, which is much more ideal. But then, when the wind is strong and the waves high, it would be difficult to manage. What really threatens the sea fish cultivation industry is the

and sparrow hawks, which live on small birds, and vultures, which eat mice, frogs, snakes, rabbits, small domestic animals and animal carcasses. During the day, they fly along their way; when dusk falls, they alight in woods, searching for food and rest. The following morning, they take flight again and continue their journey. The little birds catch insects in the woods or fields or peck seeds or grains. In order to avoid the birds of prey, they fly in flocks at night. At dawn, they land on islands and in woods, looking for water and food. When dusk falls, they resume their journey.

There is a museum of migratory birds on Fengshan Hill, exhibiting many specimens of those that fly over Changdao. According to ornithologists, the over 100,000 birds annually flying across Changdao can be classified into 18 categories, 54 families and 224 species. Among them, several species are put under particular state protection. These include the red-crown crane, white-shoulder vulture and swan.



1. A red scarf is the hallmark of fisherwomen in Jiaodong.
2. A live crab of 400 gram can be sold for 20 yuan.
3. Sea urchin is one of the products of Changdao.
4. Aquiculture is well developed on Changdao Islands.
5. Star fish is the tourists' favourite souvenir.

wastewater discharged from towns, factories, farms and industrial enterprises along the coast. If the level of nitrogen content rises, this industry would be ruined. A few years back, hit by a red tide, the largest scallop farm in the island was almost

entirely destroyed. It was a telling blow for the local economy.

### Stopover for Migratory Birds

Every year, in September or October, migratory birds living in northern areas such as the Changbai Mountains, the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains, the grassland of Inner Mongolia and Siberia fly south. On their way to their winter escapes in Yunnan, Zhou, Guangxi, Guangdong and Hainan, they stop over Changdao. In the following March and April, when spring returns, they fly back via the same route. Changdao always serves as a stopover for these birds. There are two types of migratory bird that fly over Changdao: birds that fly during the day and rest at night, and smaller birds that rest during the day. Birds of prey include eagles

## Tips for the Traveller

### Transport

From Yantai to Penglai: Take a shuttle bus at the Long-distance Bus Terminal in downtown or take a bus at the Beimalu Bus Terminal to Penglai, from where you can take a ferry to Changdao; Bus fare: 10 yuan.

From Penglai to Changdao: The ferry service offers 30 cruises daily, from 6:00 to 18:00; Fare: 24 yuan/round trip. On Changdao Islands, you can take a tourist bus for the southern or the northern route; Fare: 20 yuan/medium-sized bus, 16 yuan/big bus.

### Accommodation

#### Changyuan Hotel

Address: 2 Wenhua Street, Changdao; Tel: (535) 321 1991; Rate: 180-240 yuan/standard room.

#### Jinlanwan Hotel

Address: Changyuan Road, Changdao; Tel: (535) 321 2383; Rate: 180-240 yuan/standard room.

### Sightseeing

Changdao is a state-level scenic area. Main scenic spots include the Jiuzhang Cliff, Half Moon Bay, Wangfu Reef, Gaoshan Island, Forest Park, Ten Thousand Bird Island and the Pagoda Reef. Opening hours: 7:00-19:00; Admission: 10 to 15 yuan/each spot. Best tourist season: from May to October.





create a gruesome sound. In the middle section of the island is a rather flat beach. We docked and went ashore. Not far from the beach is a rock resembling an elephant's trunk jutting into the sea. The waves surge around it, giving the impression that an elephant is playing in the water.

### **The Origin of a Taoist Sect**

Leaving Yantai, I went on to Yangma (Horse-Breeding) Island which received its name from the story that the First Emperor of Qin bred horses here on his eastern tour. The island is host to a 150,000-square-metre horse-racing venue. The spectators' stand provides you with a panoramic view of the 1,000-metre oblong racecourse. Races are held every Saturday and Sunday. The course is complete with modern automatic doors at the starting line, surveillance cameras, an electronic timing device at the end of the course, a huge digital screen

and computerised ticketing facilities.

The bathing beach at the southeastern end of the island is so fine and flat that it seems to have been created by first flattening with shovels and then sifting through the sand. The seabed is gentle and the waves calm. Young couples and carefree parents with their happy kids stroll and play on the sandy beach. Boats with colourful triangle sails appear in the distance like flags dancing between the sky and sea. In the holiday village, yellow-painted houses demonstrate a strong European lifestyle.

In 1167, Wang Chongyang, a Taoist master, came from Shaanxi Province and began to spread the religion here, propagating such ideas as remaining faithful, helping the poor, placing the interests of others first, sharing and caring. He then founded the Quanzhen or Complete Truth Sect of Taoism and trained seven disciples, who were later recorded in history books as "Seven True Taoists of





1. Aquiculture has brought prosperity to the fishermen.
2. A fishing fleet in the harbour, a scene that can only be seen during the fishing-ban season.
3. The No. 1 Beach of Yantai.

village on the gentle southern slope. Sheer cliffs dominated the northern coast. On

top of the peak in the northeast stood a white lighthouse built in 1866. The first lighthouse guard was a Briton called Robertson. Gradually people began to refer to the lighthouse as the Robertson Lighthouse. The location serves as the mouth of the Yantai Harbour, and joins the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea Strait in the north. Sitting in a revolving chair at a desk, with a clear view through the windows on all four walls, the lighthouse keeper registers the name, number, timing and direction of all ships passing by and maintains contact

with the ships via radio. Thanks to this dutiful contact, ships enjoy smooth sailing on the rough sea. Lighthouse keepers are mostly tacit but kind-hearted people. In a way they are similar to highland herdsmen in temperament.

Their isolated environment makes it hard for them to ever conceive of people with evil intentions; what delights them most is to have visitors. Watching the sea from the lighthouse, they develop a calm and peaceful mind.

Turning north from the western tip of the Kongdong Island, I saw a small islet like a huge turtle drifting on the water surface. In fact the shape has given the islet the name of Turtle Island. In front of it stands a rock in the shape of a huge iron rod, called Sea-Stabilising Needle. Naturally, the name has given rise to many stories and legends. To look northeast into the sea from the Kongdong, one can see what appears to be a small island in the shape of a broad bean. As you approach it by boat, however, its actual size will surprise you. The southern part of the island is highly elevated from the sea and below the cliffs on the eastern side is a cave spacious enough to accommodate a dozen small boats. Once inside, you feel as if you are in a macabre concert hall, with the waves beating against the rocks to



## Wei-Dynasty Stone Carvings – Treasures of Calligraphy

The Yunfeng Hill 7.5 km southwest of Laizhou is adorned with graceful peaks, limpid waters and lush forests. Its stone carvings by Zheng Daozhao of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534) are rare treasures of the art of calligraphy. Enjoying a successful career in officialdom, Zheng Daozhao eventually rose to what is equivalent to the president or chancellor of the most prestigious university in the country. In his earlier years, he once served as the magistrate of today's Laizhou. A man who maintained a leisurely lifestyle and loved to travel in the mountains and along the rivers, Zheng visited all the hills in Laizhou and left behind stone carvings at dozens of sites on the Yunfeng and Daji hills.

The Yunfeng Hill boasts 22 stone carvings of Zheng Daozhao. Appearing in varied sizes and

1. Fisherwomen cultivating scallops.
2. A rock resembling an elephant in the sea.
3. Angling is a popular pastime of the Yantai people.



North China". Half a century later, Genghis Khan, founder of the Yuan Dynasty,

installed one of the seven, Master Qiu Chuji, as an imperial teacher to oversee the national propagation of Taoism. This led to the emergence of the two main sects of Taoism: the Complete Truth and Zhengyi, or Authenticity Sects. Priests of the Complete Truth Sect are barred from marriage, and regard Wang Chongyang as their founding father, while priests of the Authenticity Sect can marry and live secularised life. Taoists of the latter sect regard Zhang Daoling as their master and the Dragon and Tiger Hill in Jiangxi as the origin of their religion.

different styles, the carvings are found all along the way up to the hill, from the foot to the pinnacle. The most famous of these is a stone tablet carved with more than 1,300 characters, which Zheng contributed to his father. The seven characters constituting the title are each the size of a man's fist, with the text in smaller sizes. Every stroke demonstrates its own strength and style, fully displaying Zheng's superb mastery of the

art of calligraphy. In this piece, Zheng relayed stories from his own life and that of his father. Interestingly, by changing his father's posthumous title, he presented his father as a hard working, clean and honest official, successfully avoiding the fact that his father was really quite corrupt.

Today what people are most interested in are not stories singing the praise of Zheng's father but his outstanding handwriting. Chinese calligraphy is generally divided into two main schools: the Northern Style and the Southern Style. While the Northern Style is known for its



strong and impressive use of the brush, the Southern Style emphasises its gentle flow. The Northern Wei Dynasty saw the prime era of the Northern Style of calligraphy, with hundreds of schools contending for mastery. Now more than 1,500 years of erosion has left only slightly more than 200 pieces of northern style stone carvings by 10 distinguished masters and Zheng is one of them. In total, 42 stone carvings of Zheng's calligraphic works are still extant, all of them considered the best of their kind from the Northern Wei Dynasty. More importantly, his



1. Jockeys on the Horse-Breeding Island.
2. Athletes of the Chinese Surfing Team receiving training in Yantai.
3. Fun in the sand for the twins.
4. A fishing boat returning in the morning.

calligraphy began to show the emergence of the regular script, providing valuable material for studying the transition from official script to regular script in Chinese handwriting and the origin of the art of calligraphy.

This is probably why stone carving artists and calligraphers throughout history have shown great respect for Zheng and his works.

## Tips for the Travelling Yantai

### The Kongdong Island Tourist Area

#### Transport

The island is 10 km from the city and takes 20 minutes by boat from the Taiping Bay Dock. Four shuttle boat services serve travellers daily, leaving the city and the island at the same time: 9:00, 11:00, 15:00 and 17:00; Cost: 20 yuan/one way.

#### Accommodation

##### Kongdong Hotel

Address: Kongdong Island, Yantai; Tel: (535) 628 8554; Cost: 120 yuan.

#### Sightseeing

The island is open all day with an admission fee of 10 yuan. The best season for a visit is between April and November.

### The Yangma Island Tourist Area

#### Transport

Take the bus at the bus stop on Qingnian Road. Two bus services a day: 8:00 and 14:00; Distance: 33 km, 35 minutes. There is also a bus setting off from Muping to the island.

#### Accommodation

##### Huangjin Hotel

Address: Yangma Island, Muping District, Yantai; Tel: (535) 476 5888.

#### Sightseeing

The 14.2-square-kilometre Horse-Breeding Island, also known as the Elephant Island, is dominated by rolling hills with a beautiful landscape and a pleasant climate. Rich in natural resources, the tourist area enjoys unique beaches, hills and woods. Besides the horse racecourse and beaches, the island also offers other attractions such as the West Journey Palace, Cave in the Sea and Splendid City.

### Yunfeng Hill Tourist Area, Laizhou

#### Transport

The hill is 160 km from Yantai. Buses set off from the Bus Terminus on North Road every 20 minutes for Laizhou, from 5:30 to 6:00; Fare: 24 yuan. From Laizhou, you change to a bus going to the hill.

#### Accommodation

##### New Century Hotel \*\*\*

Address: 478 Wenhua Road West, Laizhou; Tel: (535) 221 3988;

Rate: 218 yuan/standard room

##### Laizhou Hotel

Address: 3 Laizhou Road South, Laizhou; Tel: (535) 221 2540;

Rate: 198 yuan/standard room

#### Sightseeing

Opening hours: 8:00-18:00; Admission: 10 yuan. The best season to visit is from March to November.



# Weihai: An Ancient Battlefield

In 1398, in order to keep out the Japanese pirates, the Ming court decided to build a fort at a spot in the northeast of Wendeng County and named it the Weihai Fort, meaning "Fort Guarding the Sea". This was the origin of the city of Weihai. Located on the eastern tip of the Jiaodong Peninsula, Weihai occupies a very strategic position, as it faces the Korean Peninsula across the sea, guarding the ocean entrance to Tianjin and Beijing and overlooking a major sea transportation route in the region.

The gate was opened and travellers swarmed onto the boat, filling its cabins and occupying its deck. Among the passengers was a group of middle school students, crossing their arms over their water bottles and rucksacks hanging on their fronts. They may have been on a summer camp or taking their first trip away from home. What was definitely true was that it was the first time they had seen the sea, as they were all exceptionally excited. Only their teacher maintained a solemn look, eagerly counting the students. Its bow took a dip into the sea and the boat churned up white waves as it pulled out of the dock and headed in the direction of Liugong Island. The skyline and green hills of Weihai retreated and the vehicles on the coastal highway grew increasingly smaller.

## The Only Remaining Ancient Navy Headquarters

With its long coastline, China has a long history of navigation at sea. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907), a route to the Indian Ocean was opened. During the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1279-1368) dynasties, along with the emergence of what became known as the Silk Route on the Sea, Chinese vessels sailed to Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa. A court official, Zheng He, of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), commanded a fleet of 62 vessels and 27,000 people and made seven successful trips to these areas, with the help of a magnetic compass, a sea chart and the knowledge to locate oneself according to the positions of the stars. In 1798, British warships turned up near the coast off Guangzhou and began to test China's ability to defend its territory....

Soon we were on Liugong, and my mind reverted to the present. This is an island of 3.15 square kilometres shaded by lush green

growth. At the end of the 19th century, during the Sino-Japanese War, a world-shaking sea battle took place around here. Walking westward along the sea wall, we came across many stands selling souvenirs associated with the sea. Before long, we found ourselves in front of an ancient brick and wood structure on the southern slope of the Qiding Hill that once served as the headquarters of the Northern Fleet of the Chinese Navy. Today it stands as the best-preserved navy command of the time.

On the staircase of the Museum of the Sino-Japanese War (1894-95), I noticed a horizontal board with four characters announcing "Navy Headquarters" in the handwriting of Li Hongzhang, the Qing minister in charge of the industrialisation drive. The two sections of the vermilion door are each painted with the portrait of either Qin Shubao or Chi Jingde, two Tang-dynasty generals, filling the place with an air of solemnity. The house consists of three courtyards, with the front serving as the office, the central one a dining hall and the back a hall for sacrificial ceremonies. The houses on the sides, linked up by a corridor and built with flying eaves tilting upward, follow a typical traditional Chinese architectural style.

After the entire squadron of the Chinese Navy was destroyed in Fujian in 1884, invading forces from Britain, France, the United States and Japan began to pressure Beijing, the imperial capital, from the sea. The Qing government hurriedly organised the navy headquarters in Weihai, but the national treasury had little funding to support it. Li Hongzhang was authorised to take a portion of the taxation revenue and also borrow from abroad to buy warships from







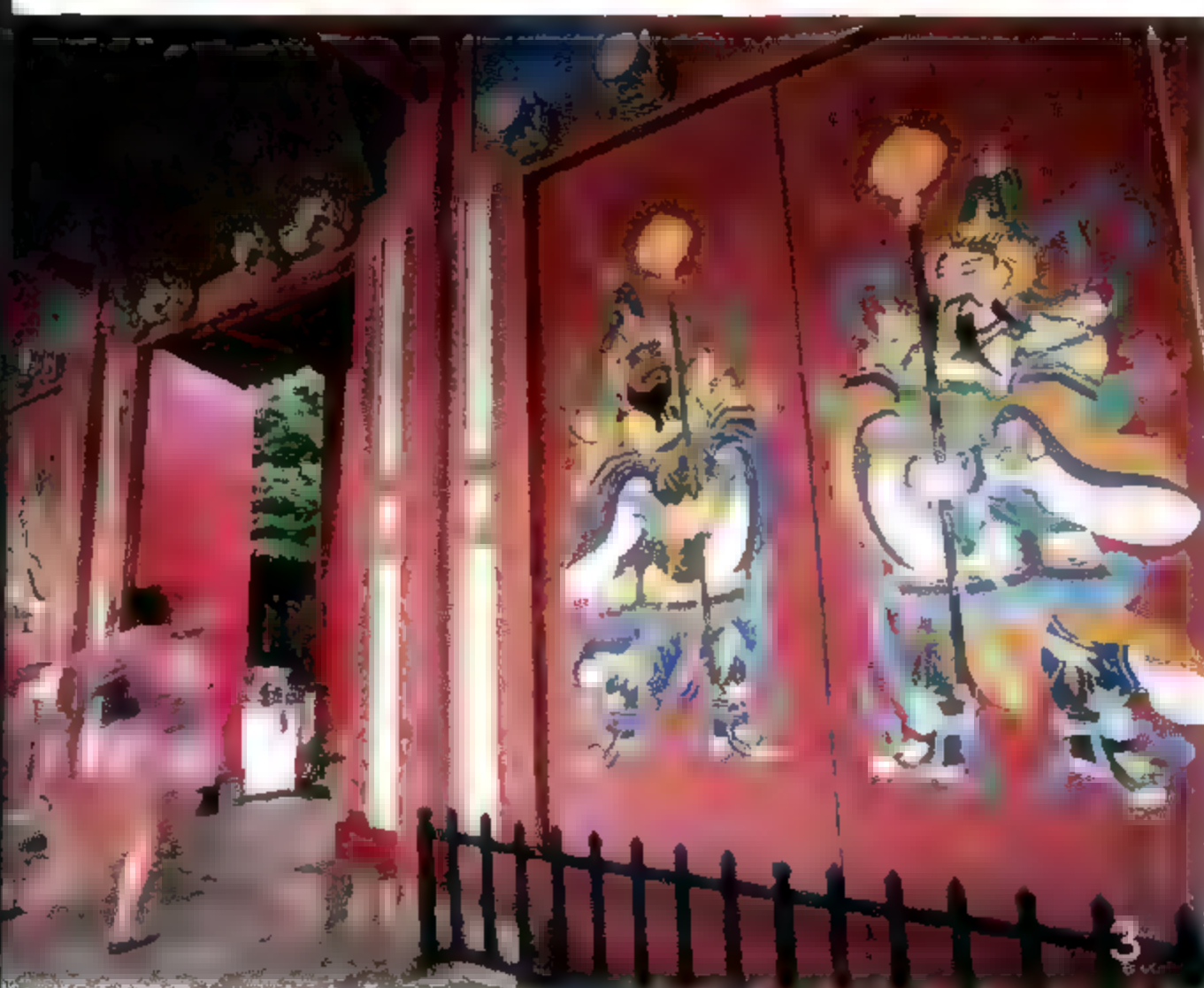
Britain and Germany. In 1888, two 7,000-ton warship, named *Dingyuan* and *Zhenyuan*, plus some 40 other vessels of varying sizes and tonnage including the *Jingyuan*, *Laiyuan* and *Zhiyuan*, were brought together to form the Northern Fleet. Ding Ruchang was made admiral. The sound of iron and steel began to echo on Liugong Island as construction of the harbour and gun positions got underway. A navy training school was established and teachers were invited from Britain and Germany to help train the Chinese navy. Having watched an exercise of the Northern Fleet, Li Hongzhang went back to the Forbidden City to report to Cixi, the Empress Dowager, saying: "Preparations by the Northern Fleet are making daily progress. As a result of limited funding, it is impossible to expand the fleet any further, but it is sufficient to defend the Bohai Sea." The Empress Dowager, listening from behind a golden screen at the rear of the throne, had never intended building a real navy. She had agreed to do so only because those foreigners had left her with no alternative. Upon hearing that the sea was safe and no more money was required for the navy, she felt the wrinkles on her forehead rapidly disappear. Since the Mountain Resort in Chengde was too far to benefit from the approaching summer's heat, and her husband, Emperor Xianfeng, had died in this very summer resort, its attraction was diminishing. The

Yuanmingyuan Garden in the western suburbs of Beijing, another choice for her summer escape, however, had been destroyed by the joint army of Britain and France. Her mind turned to the Garden of Clear Ripples, formerly a component of Yuanmingyuan, which, though also in bad condition, was ideally located among hills and ponds. Why not rebuild it and change its name to the Summer Palace? As for the cost, it could come from the four million taels of silver earmarked yearly for building the navy. When the woman ruler told the court of her plan, no one dared to voice any objection. With its funding removed, the future of the Northern Fleet was doomed.

### The Demise of the Northern Fleet

On February 25, 1894, the Japanese Navy launched a sudden attack on the Northern Fleet, setting off the Sino-Japanese War. On September 17, a battle was fought on the Yellow Sea. In a contest of 10 Northern Fleet ships versus 12 Japanese warships, the Northern Fleet first damaged three enemy ships, but the Japanese soon employed a two-pronged strategy and pushed the Chinese ships into a difficult position. Captain Deng Shichang ordered his ship, *Zhiyuan*, to charge towards the enemy boat *Yoshino*, but unfortunately *Zhiyuan* was hit by an enemy torpedo. All 250 officers and men died.





1. The Sino-Japanese War Museum established by the beach on Liugong Island.
2. Battles are illustrated in the museum through lifelike statues and the effect of lights.
3. The headquarters of the North Fleet of the Qing-dynasty Chinese Navy on Liugong Island.

After the battle on the Yellow Sea, the Northern Fleet still had nine warships, six gunboats and over a dozen torpedo boats remaining. Counting those on both sides of the Weihai Fort and Liugong Island, there was a total of over a hundred canons, which provided a chance for the Chinese to overcome the Japanese aggressors if the former were able to put up an active and tenacious fight. Li Hongzhang, however, ordered the Chinese

Admiral Ding to preserve the ships and avoid fighting. As a result, the Northern Fleet retreated to Weihai. Taking their opportunity, the Japanese landed in Rongcheng, took Weihai and launched a pincer-like attack on Liugong Island. The Chinese troops on the island fought on courageously. When they ran out of ammunition, Admiral Ding ordered the

warships to break through the enemy that surrounded them. Some officers who were scared of dying refused to carry out the order. Ding then gave the order to sink all the ships to avoid being captured by the enemy. He not only met with a further refusal but was forced to surrender by traitorous officers at the point of their swords. In despair, Ding committed suicide. The British advisor wrote a letter of surrender in Ding's name and handed over 11 warships and gunboats and the canon positions on Liugong Island to Japan, spelling the total destruction of the entire Northern Fleet which Li Hongzhang had made such painstaking efforts to build. The Qing government was compelled to sign the "Treaty of Shimonoseki", ceding islands to Japanese rule and paying an indemnity of 200 million taels of silver. After this incident, the Qing Dynasty was never again able to recover its strength.

I also visited the training school, the residence of Admiral Ding Ruchang, some ancient canon positions, and the Memorial Museum of the North Fleet Commanders and Soldiers. The museum displays a great collection of valuable material on the war and pictures of patriotic commanders, including Ding Ruchang, Liu Buchan, Deng Shichang and Lin Yongsheng. Many visitors often stand in admiration before the picture of Liu Buchan who served as captain of the *Dingyuan* ship. A member of the first group of graduates from the Fujian Shipping

School, he went to study at a naval academy in Britain and became one of the first few commanders of the Chinese Navy. Most of the plans for strategic development of the Northern Fleet were his work. During the war on the Yellow Sea, he commanded the *Dingyuan* and fought bravely for five hours. In the battle to defend Liugong Island, it was he who led a number of vessels to support the canon positions on the southern bank, attacking the enemy position and killing Japanese admiral *Yasuzumi Otera*. When *Dingyuan* was hit by an enemy torpedo, Liu carried out his pledge to live or die together with his ship, and instantly killed himself. This heroic officer had long been described as a coward who had rebelled against superiors, and made the target of attack in history books and artistic creations. Thanks to the materials in the museum, the record was set straight and Liu was able to regain his reputation.

### Bilingual Shop Signboards

Arriving on the shore, I looked back and found the sinking sun casting a fiery red tinge upon the sea. The sky gradually turned purple and the lights of vehicles driving through the streets resembled strings of sparkling pearls. The shops' neon lights danced, catching the attention of all the passers-by. Most of the stores' signboards were in both Chinese and Korean while their shelves were laden with Korean goods, including clothes, leather belts, handbags, watches, home appliances and electronic products.

The Republic of Korea leads all other countries and regions in the total sum invested in Weihai. Every day, Korean cargo ships come to load and unload while every other day there is a passenger service. If people board a ship in Korea in the evening, they will arrive in Weihai the next morning.

Korean investment in Weihai has boosted local consumption and Korean restaurants are a common sight. In many Karaoke places, discs featuring Korean songs are available. Even some of the taxi drivers here know some simple Korean words.

## Tips for the Traveller

### Liugong Island (a national scenic area)

Located in the bay off Weihai, the 3.15-square-kilometre island is 2.1 nautical miles from the tourist wharf in the city proper. Scenic and historic attractions include the headquarters of the Northern Fleet of the Qing Dynasty, the naval training school, the residence of Admiral Ding Ruchang, some ancient canon positions, the Museum of the Sino-Japanese War and the Memorial Museum of the Commanders and Soldiers of the Northern Fleet.

The island can be reached by ferry from Weihai; Fare: 15 yuan, 20 minutes. Opening hours of Liugong Island: 7:00-17:00 daily; Best tourist season: from May to October.

### Accommodation

**Weihaiwei Mansion \*\*\*\***

Address: 82 Haigang Road, Weihai; Tel: (631) 523 2542; Rate: 788/standard room.



# Cape Chengshantou:

## An Attraction to Ancient Emperors

I decided to stay at the hostel of the Chengshantou Meteorological Station for getting an advantage point to see the sunrise at sea. It was pretty cool at night and I threw another blanket over the quilt. When day broke, I pushed open the window and a gust of mist rushed in. Chengshantou is beyond the Bohai Strait and well into the Yellow Sea. In summer, the warm seawater heated by a scorching sun during the day evaporates, often causing a thick mist to rise when the temperature drops sharply at night. I had learned all this before I came. I just wanted to try my luck. Would a gale blow up at sea by the dawn? If so, the sunlight would pierce through the surging clouds and fog, set off by the sea's reflection, and form untold stunning images that defy description. Only photography could do it justice.

I walked out of the small hostel and was instantly enveloped in thick mist. A beam of orange light from a lighthouse appeared like a halo behind a piece of opaque glass. I followed a zigzag mountain path and took a bend. All of a sudden, the lighthouse was nowhere to be seen. There was not a soul nearby. Everything was engulfed by fog, and visibility was so poor that all around was pale and colourless, as if faded with age. It was so mysterious that I seemed to lose all sense of time.

### The First Qin Emperor Visited It Twice

In ancient times, Mount Chengshantou was regarded as the adobe of the Sun God. After Jiang Taigong assisted King Wu of the Zhou Dynasty (c. 11 B.C.-221 B.C.) to conquer all his enemies, he built the Sun Temple here, where he came to offer sacrifices to the Sun God. My thoughts keeping me company, I grasped at pine roots and rocks to help me up the mountain. Suddenly there was a broad vista before my eyes. I was at the top of the mountain! A huge rock stood in front of me. It was known as the "Qin-dynasty Rock", a reminder of the visit of the First Emperor (Shihuang) of Qin (221-207 B.C.). After Qin Shihuang unified China, he began travelling widely. First he wanted to offer sacrifices to all the famous mountains and rivers. Secondly, he wanted to make a show of his power and frighten the nobles of the six extinct kingdoms.

It was in the year of 219 B.C. when Emperor Qin Shihuang visited here for the first time. He had meant to go further east, but when he got to the top of Chengshantou, he found there was nothing but the sea and the sky before him. He believed that he had reached the edge of the world. He instantly offered sacrifices to the Sun God, greeting

the sun when it rose and inscribing this Qin-dynasty Rock. Nine years later, at 48, feeling that his health was deteriorating, he visited Chengshantou once again, bringing his Prime Minister Li Si, eunuch Zhao Gao and his favourite son Hu Hai. During this trip, besides offering sacrifices to the sea and the Sun God, he also built the Shihuang Palace. On his way back, the emperor became sick when he reached Pingyuan in Shandong, a result of the high summer heat and fatigue from the long journey. The imperial doctor who travelled with the emperor felt his pulse and gave him some medicine, to no avail. By the time he reached Guangzong in Hebei, his ailment had deteriorated. He asked Zhao Gao to write a letter and deliver it immediately to his eldest son Fu Su. He asked his son to go to Xiangyang as soon as possible, so that in case he died, his son could be in charge of the funeral. However, before the letter was delivered, he breathed his last.

Chengshantou became known owing to the two visits of Emperor Qin Shihuang. The Shihuang Hall on the cliff at the western side of the mountain was built later on the spot where the Shihuang Palace had once stood. The hall was a compound with three houses in a row. The original statue of an awe-inspiring First Emperor of Qin in the main hall was destroyed in war. The new one, however, does not look right, perhaps because it is too coarse and lacks spirit.

Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) also visited here in the wake of Qin Shihuang. According to the *Records of History*, Emperor Wudi visited Chengshantou in the second month of the third year of the reign of Taishi. In a valley at the foot of the mountain, to the west of the Shihuang Hall, he built the Sun Temple for worshipping the sun.

Because of its special geological location, Chengshantou became a place of unrest in modern history. The Sino-Japanese War of 1894 broke out at sea to the east of Chengshantou. Captain Deng Shichang and his men on the *Zhiyuan* ship of the Northern Fleet of the Qing







1. When there is thick fog, sound from this loudspeaker serves as a signal for the ships.
2. Chengshantou stretching out into the Yellow Sea.
3. A newly built corridor at the top of Chengshantou.
4. Visitors waiting to have their pictures taken with the stele carved with the words "The End of Heaven".

court fought heroically against the invaders and all died a heroic death. Three months after Deng's death, Japanese troops landed at the foot of Chenshantou, by the Shihuang Hall. They took Rongcheng, fought northward to Weihai and defeated the Northern Fleet. The Qing court was forced to sign a disgraced treaty known as the "Treaty of Shimonoseki".

## Tips for the Traveller

Chengshantou can be reached by bus from Weihai. A bus leaves the Long-distance Bus Station every 30 minutes. You may also take a tourist bus for a one-day trip. Opening Hours: 8:00-17:00; Admission: 35 yuan for Chengshantou; 20 yuan for the Wildlife Park.

## The Feeling of Being at One with Nature

The fog dispersed and the sun was already high in the sky. Tourists came to the mountain like a flood. They climbed up along the stone steps, passed the Ruins of the Qin Bridge and crowded at the foot of a stone stele engraved with characters "End of Heaven" written by Hu Yaobang to have pictures taken. To be frank, it is impossible to enjoy the feeling of being at one with nature in a milling crowd or in a mood of agitation.

Dusk came at last and the final bus took away all the noise. The deep azure sea suddenly showed different colours. I stood at the stele carved with "End of Heaven" and looked into the distance. Down at the foot of the cliff, angry waves dashed against the wall of the cliff, their white foam bubbling around the reef below. On the horizon, large ships carrying passengers and goods sailing between Shanghai, Dalian or Tianjin cut forward, leaving a long wake. Through binoculars, I could see seagulls tailing ships.



# Shidao: Largest Fishing Harbour in Northern China

Shidao Town is situated on a peninsula six kilometres long, with a population of 30,000. Endowed by nature with a unique geographical environment and rich fishing resource, Shidao is the largest fishing ground in northern China. A major attraction on the peninsula is the fishing harbour. Flourishing with shops, hotels and restaurants, the town won the name of Little Shanghai in the 1940s. Chejiaohe, the village of flowers, on the peninsula is also worth visiting. Shidao is home to a talented paper-cut artist and an intriguing stone collector, both of whom love to share their special interest with visitors.

Shidao's extensive fishing harbour lies at the southern tip of the peninsula. A panoramic view from the roof of the Dayudao Group Company Building reveals that the 230,000-square-metre fishing harbour stretches out to form a rectangle from north to south. Though the waves look choppy on the sea beyond, the wind inside the harbour is quite gentle. In the season during which fishing is banned, the 1,200-metre-long dock is neatly arranged with numerous fishing vessels. The 300-metre-long breakwater stops waves with a crash, creating an endless series of "explosions" in the sea. Over in the shipyards, ocean-fishing vessels can be seen under repair.

Workers remove peeling paint, polish the surface and apply a layer of vermilion rust-prevention paint. Before it totally dries up, they apply two layers of a grey paint, also with a strong resistance to rust. When applied in good time, the three layers of paint obtain a firm adhesion, allowing the ship to withstand a year of corrosion by seawater, wind and sunshine.

Toward the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), merchants from Ningbo of Zhejiang Province, known for their business acumen, came here, bringing with them large sums for investment and laying the foundation for the development of fishing, commerce and ocean shipping industries in Shidao. By the 1940s, the town had already achieved a great degree of prosperity, with a total of over 100 companies involved in fishing, banking, retail, pharmacy, as well as hotels and restaurants. The rich variety of sea produce, smooth flow of goods and open-mindedness of the people here won the town the reputation of "Little Shanghai".

In recent years, marine resources all over the world have been subjected to destruction in varying degrees and the sea at Shidao is no exception. In fact, it has reached the appalling situation of having



almost nothing to fish in the coastal waters. Two major factors contribute to the problem: the uncontrolled over-fishing as a consequence of man's greed, and increasing pollution resulting from the rapid development of coastal cities.

To remedy the situation, Chinese fishing administrative departments and agencies of industry and commerce have enforced a season from July to September each year during which fishing is banned. They have also advocated a programme of comprehensive development featuring "fishing, aquiculture and processing". In effect, this means fishing in the open sea, cultivation in coastal waters, and improved processing of sea products. Thus fishermen are kept busy even when their vessels are under repair in the shipyards.





3



1. A fisherman of Shidao.
2. Ocean-fishing boats docked in the shipyards for repairs.
3. Braving the ups and downs in the sea.
4. A fishing village in the south of Shidao Town.

### Crucial Timing for Jellyfish

A fleet of small boats loaded with jellyfish made their way into the harbour. Flocks of seagulls

flapped their wings, flying low on the water. Just as they were about to make a dive, they hovered in the sky and flew away. On the dock, it was a busy scene. On the open cement-paved ground, a makeshift "city wall" was erected with sandbags, encircling an area of 20 to 30 square metres. As soon as the boats docked, young men on the deck cast out their coils of heavy rope to lasso the poles on the bank, briskly pulling on them to steady the boats. A crane on the dock stretched out its

mechanical arm, lowering its pulley. Baskets full of jellyfish were lifted from the deck into the air, the water draining from their wok-like bases. Men with wheelbarrows on the dock came forward, received their load and dumped the haul into the "walled city". Workers in the "city" quickly spread a handful of alum on the umbrella-like bodies of the jellyfish. After a few days' drying, they would spread them with salt. The body would then be processed into "jellyfish slices" with the remainder being made into "jellyfish heads" to be sold on the market. The jellyfish is an interesting creature. When it has been out of water for some time, it rapidly reduces into a watery pulp.

Abundant marine resources have greatly promoted the speedy development of the fishing industry. The town is home to more than 20 enterprises specialising in fishing-related businesses, such as boat repairs, plastic products, steel wires, marine product processing, deep-freezing and cold storage. Cold storage boats produced here are sold to a number of Asian and African countries. The town has a large deep-



freeze warehouse accommodating over 10,000 tons of produce, ensuring a steady supply of marine produce to northern China even during a slack fishing season. In the town there are processing mills for yellow croaker, squid, baked sliced fish and prawn, as well as dried shrimps and canned mackerel. All of this has turned the town into the largest fishing market in northern China.

### Village of Everlasting Blossom

Shidao's other major attraction for visitors is Chejiaohe, known as the "village of flowers". Here a small creek meanders its way through the village and empties into the sea. The village has actually adopted the river's name, Chejiao River. Under the impact of a maritime climate, the village does not suffer from severe cold in winter, nor dry heat in summer. The sandy, dark earth on the hills is not only fertile and rich in oxygen, but also nurtured by mountain springs. As a result, flowers and plants flourish here. Spring plums, autumn chrysanthemums, summer roses and winter camellias turn the village into a world of charming colours throughout the year. In spring and summer in particular, the petals of the fiery red and snow white blossom from the apricot, peach, pear and plum trees fall in the gentle breeze to carpet the ground by the river, in the streets and throughout the courtyards. Before you even enter the village, the fragrance of the flowers is enough to intoxicate you.

The custom of cultivating flowers in the village goes back a long way. Toward the end of the Ming and early Qing dynasties in the 17th century, every home here began to grow flowers. By the early 1990s, horticulture had become the economic pillar of the village. Azaleas, camellias and spruce are its brand-name products. Of Azaleas and camellias alone, each has nearly 100 varieties. The "Peachy Red" azalea won a silver prize at a national horticultural show. Almost every villager is a gardener. Every household has its own greenhouse growing an average of more than 800 plants. The village is the largest cultivation base for azalea and camellia in Shandong Province.

### Folk Paper-cuts

Muyun'an in the western part of Shidao is a village whose reputation for paintings has spread far and wide. Once inside the village, you feel as if you have arrived in a colourful art gallery, where the walls of newly completed buildings are furnished with large murals and the screens in front of every house are decorated with dazzling colours. Inside the village's office building there is an exhibition hall for fine arts. Among the displays are traditional Chinese paintings known for their profound meanings, New Year pictures featuring a festive mood, oils with charming colours and picture books of vivid tales, calligraphy works with flowing strokes and paper-cuts of strong local folk art styles.

It was the craft of paper-cuts that originally gave rise to the art of paintings in the village. Under the influence of this art, people from the village began to study painting away from home in the 1940s. Later, many painters from various parts of the country came to do sketching in Shidao and villagers invited them to give lectures. As

time went on, the painters and villagers became friends.

The themes used in paper-cuts are mostly taken from the fishermen's lives or fairy tales. Fang Guifeng, 59 years old, is the most famous paper-cut artist in the village. In 1995, she won the UNESCO title of "Folk Artist". When I asked to see her works, she readily agreed and produced from chests stacks of neatly folded red paper-cuts, spreading them out on the bed, table, sofas and even on the floor.

These works are boldly executed and yet retain every minute detail. Seeing my camera, she suggested: "Do you want to take a picture of me while I do a paper-cut?" I happily agreed. Proudly, she immediately drew out a pair of scissors and some paper, and within less than three minutes, she had completed a piece of work called "Always Affluent".

1. Setting off for another journey in the sea.
2. Fishermen mending their nets during the fishing-ban season.
3. Drying the cultivated seaweed on the beach.
4. Most of the paper-cuts of Shidao reflect the local people's lifestyles.
5. Jellyfish must be processed as soon as it is unloaded on shore.



### A Stone Collector

Entering the home of Zhang Shilian, I found his whole courtyard filled with outlandish-looking stones. Most of his

collection had been found at Shidao. It includes two main categories: those chosen for their interesting shapes and those for their particular grains. Among the second category, there is the "Portrait of Einstein" whose image vividly resembles the great scientist; "Returning on a Snowy Night" which shows a man walking in a great hurry; "Great Wall" which presents a long meandering image, and "Dove of Peace"





with opening wings. Of the first category, there is the "Most Fortunate Village", "The Longevity Peach" and many others. Requiring no artificial carving, these beautiful stones are truly products of nature.

Zhang pursues quality rather than quantity, unique strangeness rather than the ordinary. He possesses a detached attitude in his appreciation of the stones. Since the fame of his collection spread, it has become a great attraction at Shidao, drawing many people to come and view it. Men of wealth have offered handsome prices for his stones, but he always tells them that he regards the stones as his life and his children, which he will not part with. At the end of my visit, he saw me off at the village entrance and said with great

emotion: "My stones are priceless. When friends come, I am willing to give them away as gifts. But to sell them, no. I am suffering from cancer; money is meaningless to me."

When I finally left him, my legs felt heavy. What was the significance of man's life? I wondered.



*Translated by F. Huang, M. J. Wang*

## Tips for the Traveller

### Shidao Tourist Area

#### Transport

A bus leaves Weihai Long-distance Bus Station for Shidao every 30 minutes.

#### Accommodation

**Shidao Hotel \*\*\***

Address: 1 Yingbin Road, Shidao, Rongcheng; Tel: (631) 738 8888; Rate: 398 yuan/standard room.

#### Sightseeing

Fahua Temple: Opening hours: 8:00-17:00; Admission: 30 yuan.





# Tips for Travel

## on Jiaodong Peninsula

### Yantai

#### Transport

##### Jinan — Yantai (500 km)

Take a bus at the Jinan West Railway Station. Bus sets off for Yantai every one and a half hours from 6:30-16:30; Fare: 110 yuan.

##### Qingdao — Yantai (234 km)

Take a bus at the Qingdao Sifang Bus Station. Bus sets off for Yantai every 30 minutes from 6:30-17:00; Fare: 30 yuan/ordinary bus; 38 yuan/luxury bus.

##### Weihai — Yantai (88 km)

Take a bus at the Weihai Bus Station. Bus sets off for Yantai every 10 minutes from 5:30-17:00; Fare: 17.5 yuan.

#### Taxi:

There are now 2,800-plus taxis in service in Yantai. Flagfall rate for the first three kilometres: 5 yuan; every additional kilometre: 1.3 yuan.

#### Accommodation in Yantai

##### Asia Hotel Yantai \*\*\*

Add: 116 South Street, Yantai; Tel: (535) 624 7888; Fax: (535) 624 5240; Rate: 428 yuan/standard room.

##### Yantai Bihai Hotel \*\*\*

Add: 236 South Street, Yantai; Tel: (535) 621 9999; Fax: (535) 622 4557;



Rate: 580 yuan/standard room.

##### Donghai Hotel Yantai \*\*

Add: 38 Dongfang Street, Laishan District, Yantai; Tel: (535) 688 8460; Fax: (535) 688 8140; Rate: 260 yuan/standard room.

##### Yantai Railway Building \*\*

Add: 135 North Road, Yantai; Tel: (535) 625 6588; Fax: (535) 626 1391; Rate: 280 yuan/standard room.

#### Travel Agency

##### Yantai China International Travel Service

Add: 181 Jiefang Road, Yantai; Tel: (535) 661 7710, 661 7769; Fax: (535) 623 4147; E-mail: ytcits@public.ytptt.sd.cn.

#### Major Scenic Spots

Yangma Island Tourist Area, Kongdong Island Tourist Area, Changdao Tourist Area, Penglaige Tourist Area, Qixia Mu's Farm Tourist Area, Laizhou Yunfeng Mountain Tourist Area.

#### Specialities

##### Yantai woollen embroidery

Yantai is the birthplace of China's woollen embroidery, with a history of 90 years. Applying various types of stitching, artisans create art works with beautiful patterns for daily necessities or decoration.

##### Yantai straw-work

The finished product is made of materials such as wheat straw, corn sepals and cogongrass. It won a special award in the Panama International Expo' 1915.

##### Changyu dry red wine

Yantai is known as the "International Vine & Wine City" in Asia. The Changyu winery established in 1892 has gained an excellent reputation in the world.

#### Yantai apple

Yantai is a famous apple producer. Major species include: Green Banana, Red Banana, Little Guoguang, Golden Marshall, Red Fuji and Jiaonajin.

#### Laiyang pear

Produced in Laiyang County of Yantai, this special species of pear is sweet, tender and juicy, though its greenish-yellow skin with dots looks rough.

#### Folk paper-cuts

This folk handicraft had become popular in the Qing Dynasty. The Yantai people have the tradition of making paper-cuts to decorate lanterns or lintels during the New Year and other festivals. Today, paper-cuttings are available for various decorations: wall, ceiling, door, window, hat, clothes and shoes.

#### Sanyou crab

It is the most precious seafood produced in Laiyang County. The crab usually appears in large amounts in the fishing area of Caizhou Bay.

#### Seafood products

Located between the Yellow and Bohai seas, with a coastline of more than 900 km, Yantai produces more than 70 varieties of rare marine products, such as prawns, sea cucumbers, abalone, scallop, crab, red porgy and Purple Stone clam.



#### Restaurant

##### Taihe Seafood Restaurant

Previously called "Zhifu Club", or "Yantai Club of Foreign Countries", the house was first built in 1865 at the foot of Yantai Mountain. It is now a restaurant specialising in seafood. Some of its living raw materials are shipped in by air. The restaurant has a music bar, a European-style teahouse, an art gallery and 100-year-old bowling alleys.

Tel: (535) 661 5566.

### Weihai

#### Transport

##### Jinan — Weihai (600 km)

Bus sets out from Jinan to Weihai every 30 minutes, from 6:00-16:00; Fair: 80 yuan/ordinary bus, 140





yuan/luxury bus.

#### **Qingdao — Weihai (300 km)**

Bus sets off from Qingdao to Weihai from 5:42-17:00, every 14 minutes in the morning, and 10 minutes in the afternoon; Fare: 42.5 yuan.

#### **Yantai — Weihai (85 km)**

Bus sets off for Weihai every 10 minutes from 5:50-18:00; Fare: 17.5 yuan.

#### **Weihai — Rongcheng (58 km)**

Buses are available from 6:00-18:00, every 6 minutes; Fare: 6 yuan.

#### **Weihai — Chengshantou (71 km)**

Buses are available from 6:10-15:00, every 30 minutes; Fare: 8 yuan.

#### **Weihai — Shidao (96 km)**

Buses are available from 6:16-17:00, every 30 minutes; Fare: 10 yuan.

#### **Weihai — Rushan (114 km)**

Buses are available from 6:00-17:00, every 6 minutes; Fare: 13 yuan.

#### **Taxi:**

There are now 2,000-plus taxis in Weihai. Flagfall rate for the first two kilometres: 5 yuan; every additional kilometre: 1.2 yuan.

#### **Accommodation in Weihai**

##### **White Swan Hotel Weihai \*\*\***

Add: 12 Wenhua Road East, Weihai;

Tel: (631) 523 1891; Rate: 350 yuan/standard room.

##### **Sunshine Hotel Weihai \*\*\***

Add: 88 Tongyi Road, Weihai; Tel: (631) 520 8999;

Rate: 360 yuan/standard room.

##### **Hualian Hotel \*\*\***

Add: 58 Xinwei Road, Weihai; Tel: (631) 522 2888;

Rate: 288 yuan/standard room.

##### **Banyue Villa \*\***

Add: Huanhai Road, Weihai; Tel: (631) 526 1305;

Rate: 280 yuan/standard room.

#### **Accommodation in Rongcheng**

##### **Huanghai Hotel Rongcheng \*\***

Add: Shidao Town, Rongcheng; Tel: (631) 738 2712;

Standard room: 218 yuan/standard room.

##### **Boxia Villa \*\*\***

Add: Xixiakou, Chengshanwei Town, Rongcheng;

Tel: (631) 783 8888;

Rate: 360 yuan/standard room.

#### **Accommodation in Rushan**

##### **Rushan International Hotel \*\*\***

Add: 1 Shengli Street East, Yushan;

Tel: (631) 665 4101;

Rate: 298 yuan/standard room.

#### **Travel Agencies**

##### **Weihai China International Travel Service**

Add: 96 Guzhai Road East, Weihai;

Tel: (631) 581 8616; Fax: (631) 581 7456.

##### **Weihai China Travel Service**

Add: 73 Haigang Road, Weihai;

Tel: (631) 522 1183; Fax: (631) 523 2945.

#### **Scenic Spots in Weihai**

##### **Liugong Island National Scenic Area**

##### **CCTV Weihai Movie & TV Town**

Take special-route Bus No. 15 in downtown Weihai.

From 8:00 to 19:00, there is a bus every 15 minutes; Admission: adult: 30 yuan, children: 15 yuan; Best travel time: summer.

##### **Weihai International Beach**

Bus No. 7, available every 6 minutes; Admission: 2 yuan. Best season: from July to September.

##### **Rongcheng Chengshantou Scenic Area**

##### **Chengshanwei Swan Lake**

A bus leaves the Weihai Long-distance Bus Station every 30 minutes; or take a special-route bus; Admission: free; Best season: winter.

#### **Shidao Town Tourist Area**

##### **Shengshuiguan Scenic Area**

Take a long-distance bus to Shengshuiguan, every 30 minutes, or take a one-day tour special-route vehicle; Opening hours: 8:00-17:00; Admission: 25 yuan.

##### **Yintan (Silver Beach) Tourist Resort**

Take a long-distance bus to Rushan, and then change to another bus. Best time: From July to September; Admission: free.

##### **Shengjing Mountain**

There are three bus services a day from Weihai Long-distance Bus Station, or go to Wendeng first and change bus there; Opening hours: 8:00-17:00; Admission: 25 yuan.

#### **Specialities**

Prawns, peanuts, sea cucumber, abalone, scallop, kelp, oyster, Mengzi shrimp paste and bean flour paste are must-buys. Others include leather goods, clothes imported from Korean, fishing rods, carpets, embroideries, tin-inlaid handicrafts and silk.



1. Both Yantai and Weihai are tin handicrafts producers.
2. The Ten-Thousand Bird Island in Changdao. (by Sun Bo)
3. A restaurant situated by the Weihai International Beach.
4. A horse race at the Horse-Raising Island.
5. Yantai is famous in silk-flower making.
6. Apples from Yantai are favoured both at home and abroad.

#### **Delicacies**

**Local snacks:** Lidao deep fried cake, Shidao egg balls, Wendeng stuffed buns, Yuli noodles, White Beach dumplings and Rushan layer-cake.

**Representative dishes:** The Feng-family hotpot mutton, braised sea cucumber, fried prawns, dried scallop cooked with eggs, braised conches, deep fried swan eggs, and crab with ginger juice.






ON THE WAY

# PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

*Photos & article by Li Zhixiong*







In the Kangba Tibetan area, when the last of the harvest is gathered in the golden autumn, it is time to go on a pilgrimage. These are the days when hundreds of Tibetans, carrying walking sticks and chanting Buddhist scriptures, will set out from home and begin their journey to Karakal, the main peak of the Mainri Snow Mountain, the first of the eight holy mountains.

### Karakal Suddenly Reveals Itself

Intending to join the Tibetans on their pilgrimage to the holy mountain, a few friends and I travelled to this area on the last day of October and stayed in a hostel operated by a local Tibetan. In the night, we heard the howling of wolves and did not dare to venture outdoors. The wolves had come down from the mountain where it had snowed and they were probably looking for food.

When I got up and went out at daybreak, I saw a Tibetan walking

1. Pilgrims circling in front of the holy waterfall.
2. Villagers at Yubeng seeing us off.







clockwise around a scriptural dagoba. He appeared to have travelled a long distance. In the faint morning light, I came across four Kangba men with their long braids coiled on top of their heads. I tried to strike up a conversation with them but found they did not speak my language. Helplessly, I watched them disappear into the morning mist.

As the sky became brighter, more people came to burn twigs and incense in the Feilai Temple. But Karakal was still hidden behind misty clouds. I followed the Tibetans into the temple and began to feed pine twigs into the burner and sprinkle some rice over them. With palms joined in front of my chest, I watched the smoke rising slowly into the air. At this moment, Karakal, the main peak of the Mainri Snow Mountain, suddenly emerged from behind the clouds, brightly illuminated by the morning sun. With the clouds floating rapidly past, we could only see the peak briefly through a gap. Since it might be obscured again by clouds at any moment, I quickly took a few photographs. Meanwhile, the chanting of scriptures grew louder and visitors to the temple began to kneel down and prostrate themselves in prayer towards the holy mountain.

1. Pilgrims from Gyangzê in Tibet arriving at the Feilai Temple at daybreak.
2. Climbing over the snowy mountain.
3. A scripture house built over a crook at Yubeng Village.
4. When the Karakal emerges from behind the clouds, people kneel down to pray.

### Circling the Snowy Mountain on Foot

A Dongfeng truck pulled to a stop in front of the temple. The Tibetan pilgrims, who had travelled a long distance, began to climb down, their faces flushed from the cold. Flicking the dust from their clothes, they immediately went into the temple and began to burn pine twigs and incense and walk in circles around the scriptural dagoba. It had taken me some time to find someone among them who could speak the Han language. This man

bells and drums. I turned round to see five lamas sitting around the burner and feeding twigs into it. As they did so, they beat the leather hand-drums and rang the bells while chanting scriptures. For a moment, the sound echoed through the silent mountain valley and floated way up into the clouds. The 6,740-metre, cloud-piercing Karakal emerged again from the misty clouds. It was soon followed by the Miancim Peak which stood as gracefully as a goddess, Mount Jiawalinan



was Cili Duoji, the truck driver.

Cili Duoji and the 17 others had come from the same village in the distant Garzê area in Tibet. After finishing the harvest more than 10 days before, they had departed for the holy mountain. Beginning from the Pelcho Monastery in Garzê, they had travelled to the Xialu and Tashilunpo temples in Xigazê and the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa. Then, they drove along the Yunnan-Tibet Highway, eating and sleeping in the truck all the way. From Yangzan, they would set off on foot and, following the same route their ancestors had travelled for generations, walk in a complete circle around the Mainri Snow Mountain.

As I watched Cili Duoji disappearing into the distance, I heard the sound of

like a Buddha in a five-pointed hat and several others.

### Faster Heartbeats

The plump Malacuo Lama, who could speak the Han language, came with his companions from Qinghai. Although he was only 24, he had been to many places and had studied at a Buddhist academy in Lhasa. Since he had been to Dêqên in Yunnan and performed the circling of the Mainri Snow Mountain three years before, he knew the route quite well. He came this time with more than 60 others, all of them Tibetans from the Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai. They travelled by bus to Yushu and reached Zhongdian in Yunnan via Sichuan. They would soon be joined by



others to perform the circling of the snowy mountain together, which would take them about 17 days.

The road for vehicles going to Yubeng comes to an end at Xidang Spring. For the remaining 30 km, there is only a footpath trodden by pilgrims over the centuries. We followed the path and walked for about four hours, crossing over the snow line and eventually reaching the Shangnazongla Mountain Pass at 3,900 metres above sea level. Through the scriptural pennants erected on the ridge of the mountain, we could see a series of snow-covered beautiful mountain peaks. At this height, I felt my heart beating faster and there was a dull pain in my chest. In the early morning light, I could see the shadowy figures of the pilgrims from the Kangba area I had met the day before.

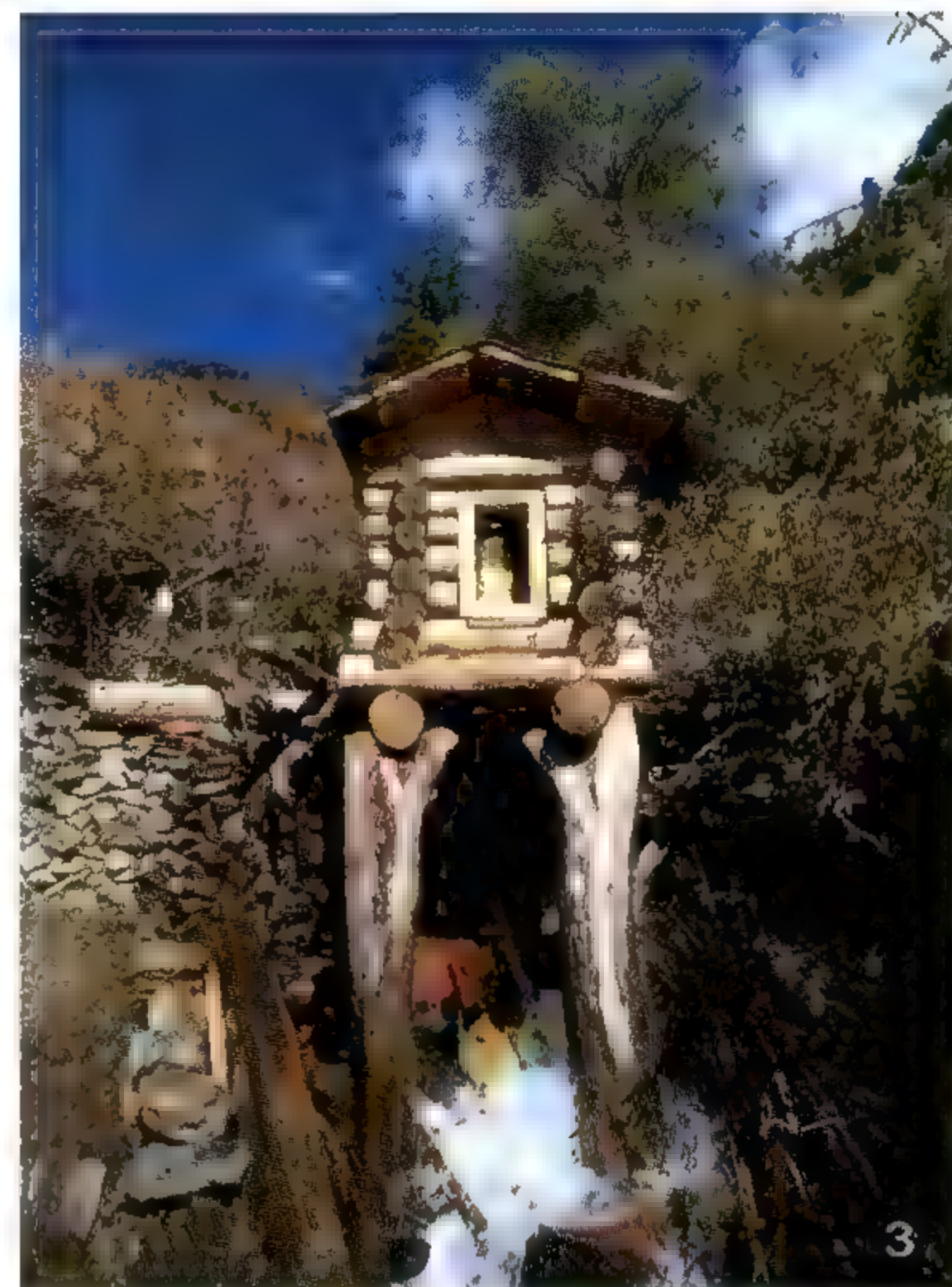
### A Pilgrim Family

Yubeng is the highest village on the Mainri Snow Mountain. It is divided into

two parts, the Upper and Lower villages, inhabited by altogether 25 Tibetan families. From December to April, when the road up on the mountain is blocked by snow, the villagers can only spend their days indoors around a fire. The silence in the village is broken only in autumn, before the winter snow seals the village off, when Tibetan people from various areas come to pay homage to the holy mountain and carry the holy spring water back home.

We reached Yubeng at sunset. The whole place was as picturesque as a painting. In the last rays of the setting sun, I saw a family walking out of the distant holy mountain. They had just bathed at the holy waterfall and looked fresh and light-hearted.

Baima Zhaxi and his family came from Baisong Village in Derong County, Sichuan Province. The couple had brought with them their son and daughter. Their son, 23-year-old Duoji, had been serving as a monk for five years. Their 20-year-old



daughter, Baima Qucuo, had become a nun in the White Pine Nunnery two years before.

### Ayingbu and His Inn

Ayingbu's inn was in the Lower Yubeng Village close to the pilgrim path up the mountain. From the second floor of the inn, I could see a small transparently clear river winding its way past. A large







expanse of grass extended to the forest at the foot of the snowy mountain. The Goddess Peak and Five-Pointed Peak seemed close enough for me to breathe in the air from them. Ayingbu was a 23-year-old young Tibetan. He had finished nine years of schooling in the county town and was one of the few in the village who could speak the Han language. Besides farming and herding animals, he also ran an inn that served mainly pilgrims from Tibetan areas.

My friend Akun had been in Yubeng

during the previous October. As it had been raining continuously for days, he was confined to the upstairs room at the inn. One day, Ayingbu came to Akun and asked him to take a look at his brother Aqingbu, who was lying in bed suffering from an unendurable pain. Aqingbu's face had a yellowish hue. Akun suggested that Aqingbu be taken to a hospital in Kunming immediately. Akun and Ayingbu took Aqingbu to Kunming and put him in a hospital. It was choledocholith, which nearly killed Aqingbu. His life was saved

only because he was operated on in time. After Aqingbu was discharged from the hospital a month later, the two brothers spent some time taking a good look at the city of Kunming.

When Akun and I met with Aqingbu and his wife this time, I could see grateful tears in the eyes of the husband and wife, who did not speak the Han language.

### A Group of All Women

That evening, Ayingbu took me to see a group of Tibetan pilgrims from Yanmen Township in Dêqên County, who were



staying in the side room of the Renbeng Temple in Yubeng Village. All the pilgrims were women except three boys who were serving as monks. One of the women was the 64-year-old Zhaxi Quchu, who had first circled the holy mountain when she was nine, and had come every autumn since then. After taking a bath at the holy waterfall, she looked refreshed. She said that as long as she was able, she would come again the following year.

Quma was a capable middle-aged woman among the group. She looked after everything concerning the group of 17 as they travelled. After Yubeng Village, she was to lead the group in walking more than 30 km a day from Ninong Village



1. Tibetans from Markam in Tibet eating breakfast in a local family's shed.
2. This is the second time Baima Zhaxi and his family have come to circle the mountain.
3. Many offerings are hung beneath the huge Inscribed Heavenly Rock.
4. Circling a prayer wheel in Yubeng.
5. Performing prostration at every holy place.



upstream along the Yubeng River and climbing over the Xianazongla Mountain Pass to worship at the Lamaist temple in the glacier area in Mingyong, and the Feilai and Qudinggong temples.

They carried their own food along the way. All they had to spend was some spare money to be placed at the holy spring water and to make small donations in the temples, which amounted to no more than 20-30 yuan. When they returned home, the men in the families would have finished ploughing the fields, and it would be their turn to go on a pilgrimage.

### Pilgrimage on Mt. Gawa

"Yubeng" in the Tibetan language means "scripture". The name is closely associated with a scenic spot known as "Heavenly Book Carved in Stone". At sunrise on November 3, we walked through a virgin forest and headed for the holy waterfall. Through the dense growth

of trees, I could see the shadowy Goddess Peak and Five-Pointed Peak. It was rather scary to walk in the forest because we had heard that some visitors had come across a bear there the day before.

In a small wooden cabin used by herdsmen on the mountain pasture in the summer, we met the group of Kangba people again. They had just finished eating breakfast and were preparing to bathe at the holy waterfall. I went with them and learned that they were from Bamda in Tibet. The 21-year-old Wujin Junmei was a handsome young man. On the way, with Ayingbu acting as my interpreter, I learned that they had come to Yunnan through Yanjing and reached Yubeng the day before. They came every three years, and this was Wujin Junmei's second time in Yubeng. Assailed by a snowstorm on the way during his first pilgrimage, his elder brother who had come with him slipped on the ice and fell

down a cliff. By the time they found him, he had ceased breathing, but his face looked perfectly serene. For the pilgrims, it was a blessing to die while circling the holy mountain.

When we were near the holy waterfall, the path became even more

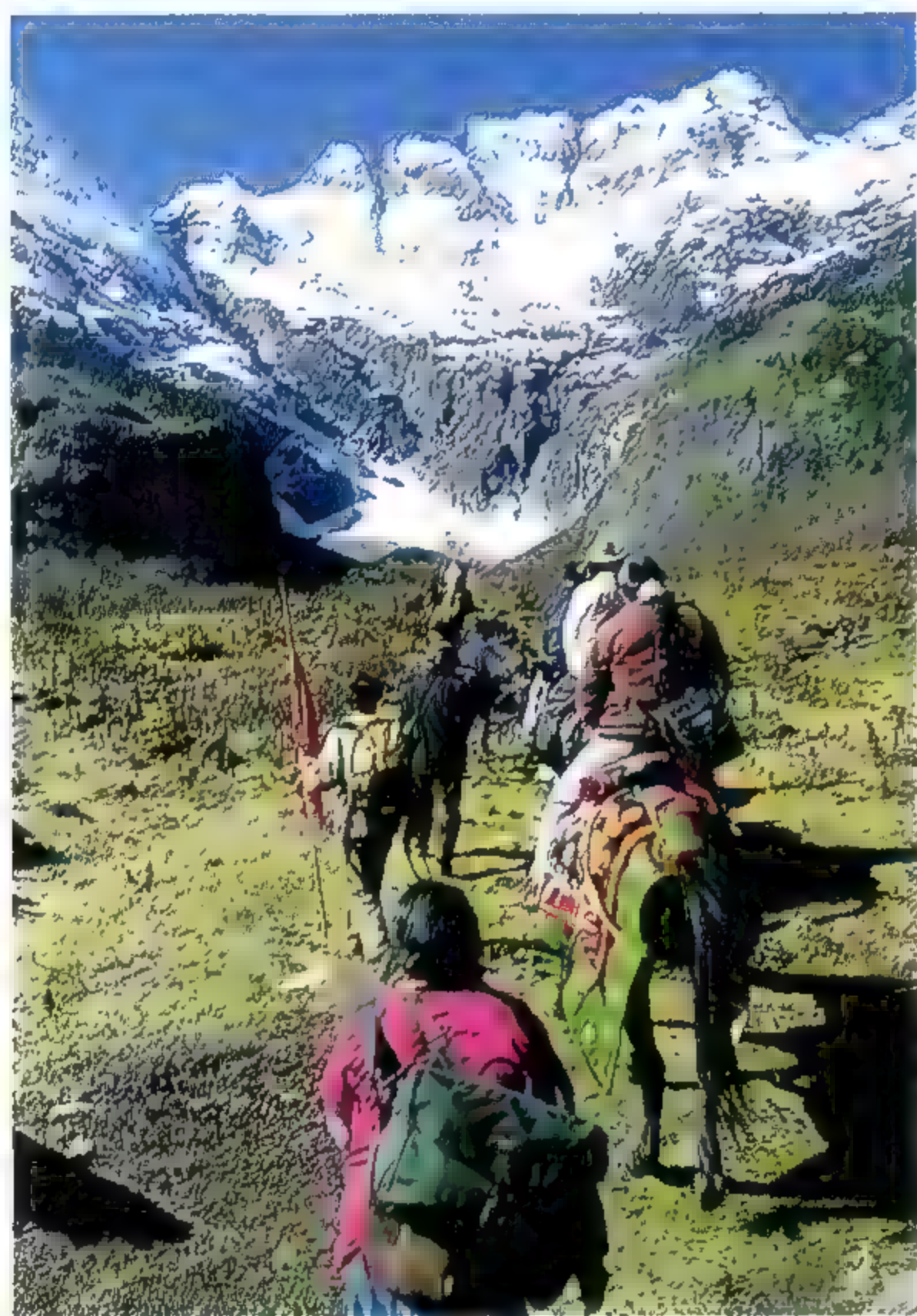




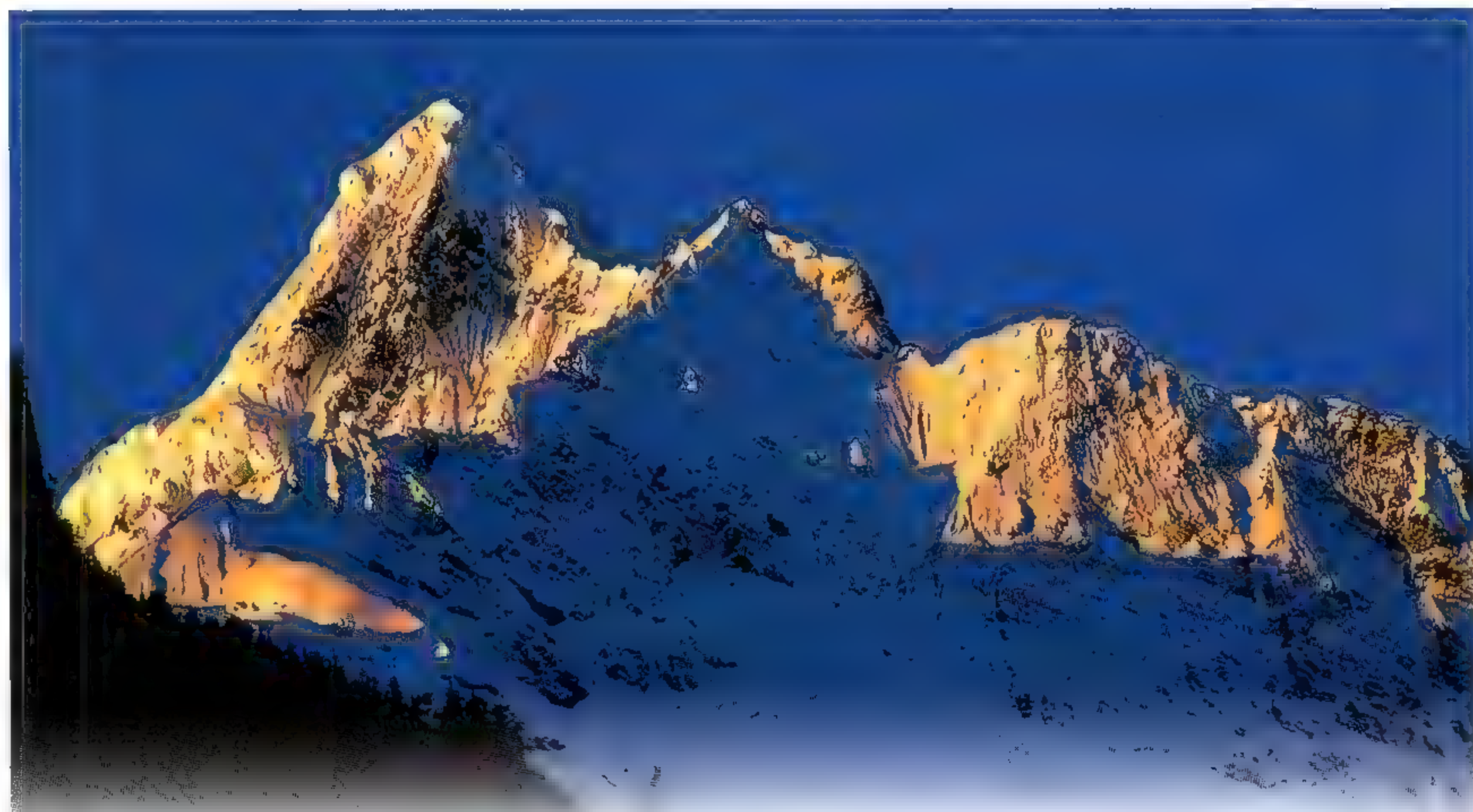
rugged. In many places, we had to climb on all fours to get to a higher place. Tied on the trees on the mountain ridge were many scriptural pennants that fluttered in the wind. The mountain worshippers removed their clothes, hats, scarves and ornaments and hung them on the trees along the path while chanting scriptures. The sound of the chanting echoed in the air. Panting breathlessly, I finally succeeded in reaching the end of the path at 4,500 metres above sea level. I looked up and saw an overhanging waterfall cascading down a cliff from several dozen metres above. A long line of people, hugging the cliff face, were walking in circles below the holy waterfall, chanting the scripture in praise of Karakal or singing religious songs in loud voices. The tune was stirring and melodious and resonated with the sound of the waterfall.

As we walked down the mountain, Wujin Junmei told me that he could feel Karakal in his heart after bathing at the holy waterfall.

When we were leaving Yubeng, I could not refrain from turning back every



1. Sunrise over the Goddess Peak.
2. Circling the holy mountain has become an organised tourist programme.
3. The Mainri Snowy Mountain is a holy mountain for the Tibetans.



few moments to look at the snowy peaks in the distance. In his novel *Lost Horizon*, James Hilton describes the valley of Blue Moon: "... the mountain wall continued to drop, nearly perpendicularly, into a cleft.... The floor of the valley, hazily distant, welcomed the eye with greenness....

Beyond that, in a dazzling pyramid, soared the snow slopes of Karakal."\*

Is this not the place the novelist described in his book?

\*James Hilton, "Lost Horizon", Pocket Books Inc. New York, N.Y., 1939, p. 52.

### Tips for the Traveller

#### Transportation:

- Kunming→Zhongdian (707km): Five long-distance buses a day; Fare: 141-180 yuan.
- Zhongdian→Dêqên (186km): Two long-distance buses a day; Fare: 98 yuan.
- Dêqên→Feilai Temple (10km): Taxi: About 20 yuan.
- Feilai Temple→Xidang Hot Spring (40km): Taxi: About 250 yuan.
- Hiring a Chinese jeep from Dêqên: 700-900 yuan/day.
- Xidang-Yubeng (30km): Hiring a horse: 140 yuan/horse.
- Other places along the mountain-circling route can only be reached on foot.

#### Accommodation:

- Kawagebo Hotel: 320 yuan/room.
  - Adunzi Hotel: 198 yuan/room.
  - Meili Hotel: 110 yuan/room.
  - Hostel: 25-40 yuan/bed.
  - Ayingbu's Inn at Yubeng: 25 yuan/bed.
- There are places for food and lodging in Dêqên and the Feilai Temple but not in other places.





Shadow play is a traditional Chinese art form in which skilled masters of the art stand behind a curtain and manipulate leather silhouettes projected onto a gauze screen from behind. The dramas are usually based on popular stories and folk legends and are accompanied by local traditional music. Many forms of shadow play have developed throughout China, and that of Liaodong (eastern Liaoning Province) of the Manchu people demonstrates its own special kind of magic.

### Origin of China's Shadow Play

There are many stories about the origin of the shadow play. One of the most interesting of them tells how one day during the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-24 A.D.), a maid in the Imperial Palace was babysitting the infant prince by the window. Suddenly, the little boy began to cry loudly and inconsolably. He only stopped crying when he noticed the reflection of the leaves from a tree in the courtyard moving on the window. Seeing how fascinated the prince was by the moving shadows, the maid collected some leaves and cut them into various shapes, including human figures and horses. Then she held them against the window and made them perform while she sang songs. The prince was very happy, and she became the first producer and performer of a shadow play.

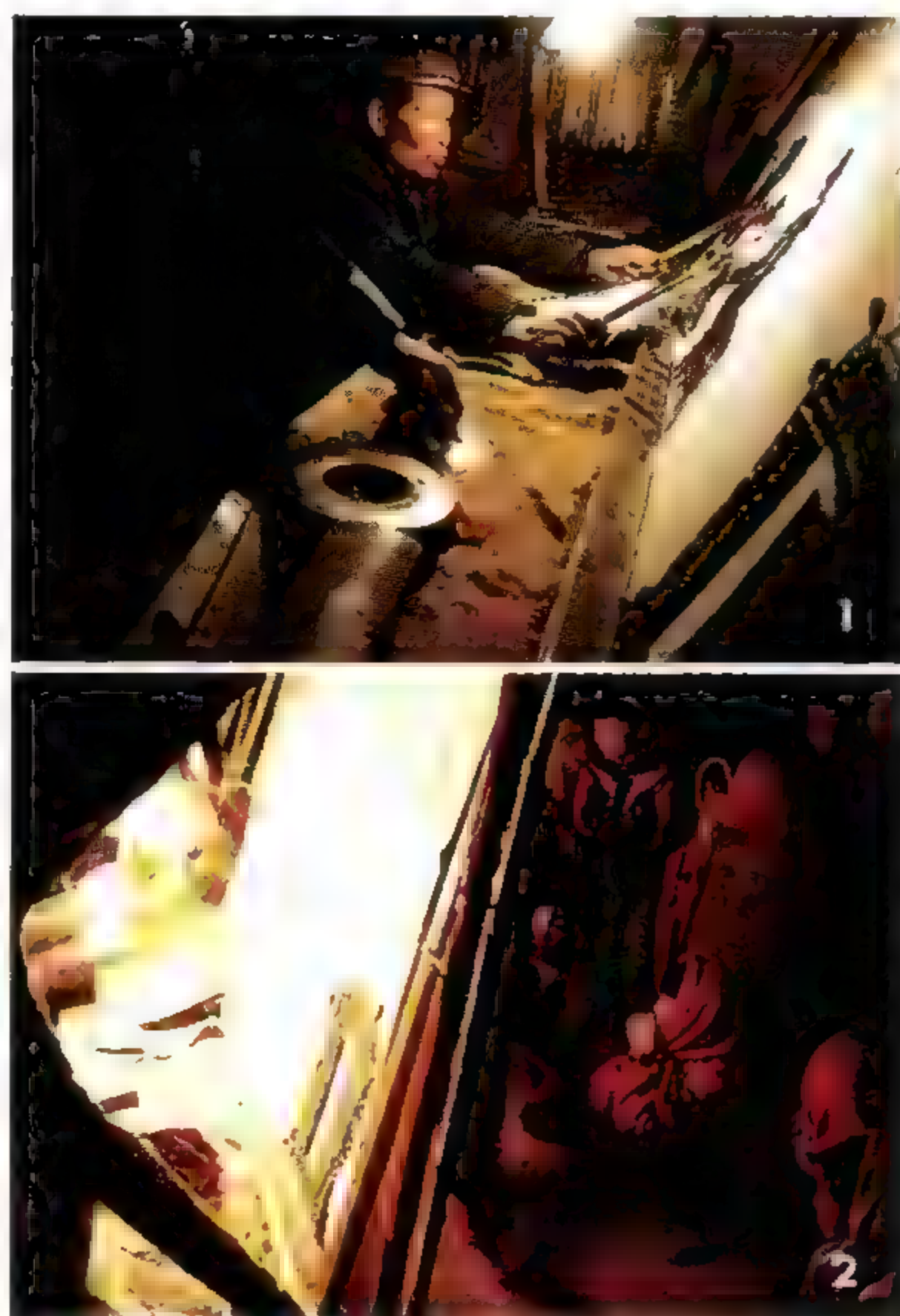
### Strong Manchu Influence

The Liaodong shadow play is centred in Xiuyan Manchu Autonomous County and popular in the surrounding counties and cities of Donggang, Fengcheng, Benxi, Yingkou, Gaizhou and Zhuanghe. It was imported from Tangshan in Hebei Province by Master Xi and Xu Liansheng, both of the Manchu ethnic group, during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Many valuable materials relating to the earlier performances, including scripts, shadow puppets, props and other items, have been collected in Xiuyan.

The people of the Manchu ethnic group make up 85 percent of the local population of Xiuyan and the Manchu culture greatly influenced

# THE ART OF LIAODONG SHADOW PLAY

Photos by Leng Bai, Zhao Chaoxun  
Article by Zhao Chaoxun



the style and content of the Liaodong shadow play. Over the 200 years of its development, this special art has absorbed other local folk art forms, including paper-cutting, embroidery, drum rhythms, two-person opera and Yangge Dance. Its style in puppet-making and performing is colourful and expressive, both bold and refined. Liaodong shadow play has built up a repertoire of over a dozen tunes, all played on traditional musical instruments, usually the sihu (four-stringed bowed instrument), erhu (two-stringed bowed instrument) or other bowed instruments, and the dulcimer. Its singing is usually simple but attractive. Some elderly people among the audience often come to listen to the show rather than watch it.

### Unique Scripts Using Local Dialect

Liaodong shadow play features many long scripts. Historical surveys show that at the beginning, the shadow plays were mostly passed on by word of mouth from generation to generation. When a show was being staged, the producer would put up a window frame on a high table and he himself would manipulate the shadow figures behind it while speaking and singing on behalf of each character. About 100 years ago, when audiences began to fall off, some literate performers in Xiuyan began to write their own scripts by adapting the plots of novels and ballads. They also worked out new shadow puppets accordingly. Of the 73 scripts popular in Xiuyan, 80 percent are written by local producers. The dialect of the local Manchu people also began to be widely used in the plays, bringing the shadow play

back into popularity. Liaodong shadow play today is a sophisticated art form in terms of design, props and music.

*Translated by Jin Jianzhong*

1. In the old time, the shadow shower himself manipulated the figures and sung for all the characters.
2. Performances on traditional themes also attract young people today.



# THREE TRAVEL ROUTES FOR THE SPRING BREAK



No sooner has the dust settled from the kaleidoscope of Spring Festival activities than the coming of spring, turning our thoughts once again to breaks and travels.

Depending on our personal commitments, the spring break may be shorter or longer. For those readers considering doing so, our reporters have explored the possibilities and carefully designed three quite special budget-conscious itineraries for a three- to five-day tour.

The three itineraries happen to be in the southern part of China, where the climate is very temperate and tours can be taken comfortably throughout the four seasons.

Route 1 (three days): A Taste of Europe in Shamian, Guangzhou;

Route 2 (four days): A Sightseeing Tour in Kaohsiung, Taiwan;

Route 3 (five days): A Ferry Bound for Gulangyu, Xiamen.



1. Shamian is a nice place to relax and have a break.  
2. The streets of Shamian are shadowed by huge trees.

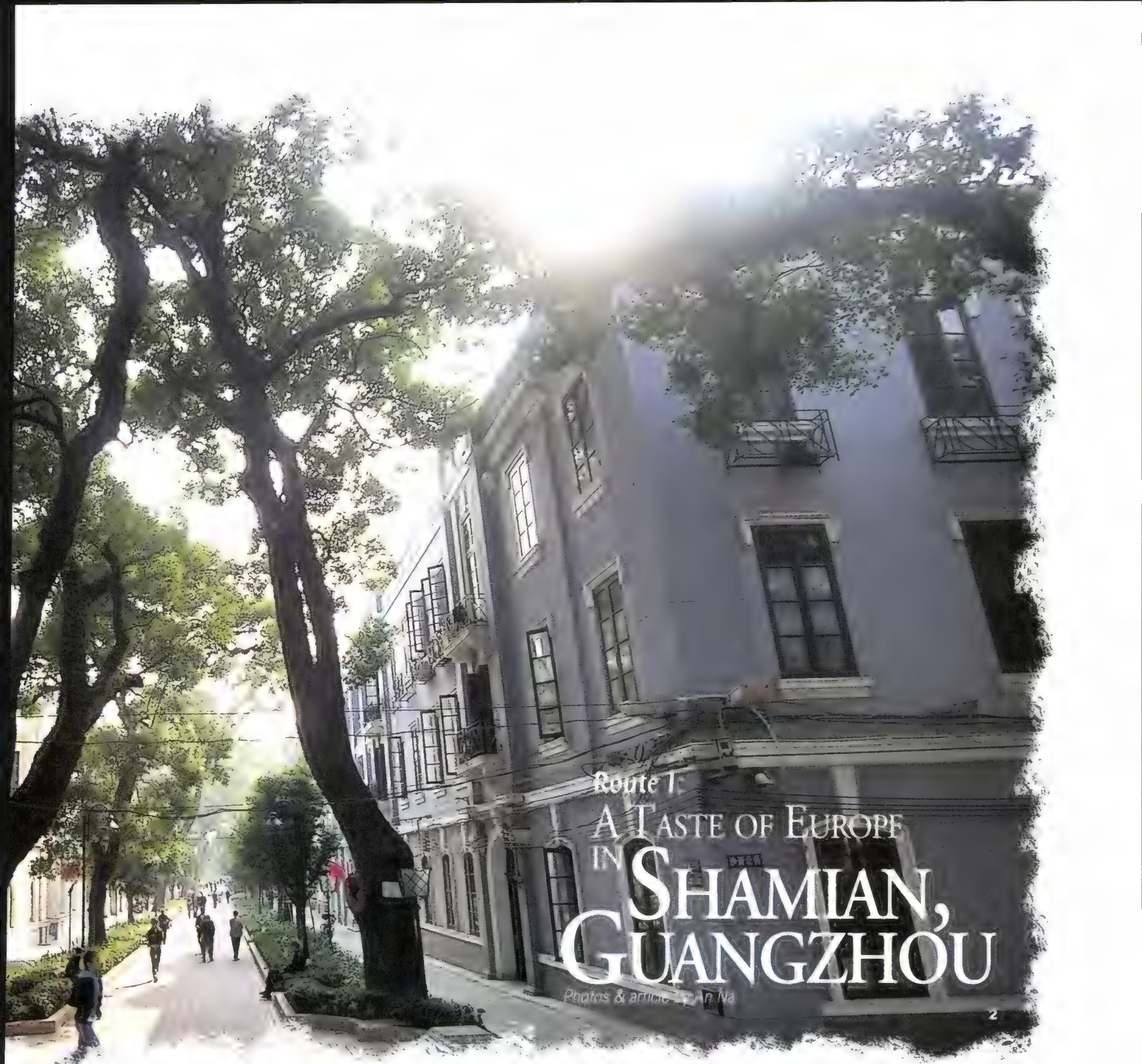


**M**y first visit to Guangzhou's Shamian district came as a total surprise.

When I went to Guangzhou on business, as usual, I decided to stay in a local youth hostel. There are in fact two of them, one close to the Railway Station and the other in Shamian. Anticipating that the one near the Railway Station would be busy on this occasion, I chose the one in Shamian.

I boarded the express train from Hong Kong and in less than two hours arrived at Guangzhou. From there I changed to the subway. Within 20 minutes I was at Huangsha Station. After asking the way, I walked through the Qingping Medicine Market and turned right, crossed the pedestrian bridge then a small bridge over a river, whereupon I found myself in Shamian. Although the first section of the road was dusty and a bright red sun was blazing overhead, my fatigue and agitation instantly evaporated at the unexpectedly European vision before me. I walked totally unprepared into a complex of baroque buildings, where an air of mellow charm permeated the environment.





Route 1  
A TASTE OF EUROPE  
IN  
SHAMIAN,  
GUANGZHOU

Photos & article by Pan Na

2

Actually, the places where we normally do business in Guangzhou are concentrated in the busy city centre around the Upper and Lower Nine Roads, Beijing Road and the Railway Station. It is not that convenient to stay in the relatively distant Shamian, where you have to rush back and forth every day and spend more money on transport. But the great advantage is its leisurely environment. When you return to your hotel after a hard day's work, you feel as if you are going home to wind down, so it really is worthwhile.

If you go to Shamian for a trip during your spring break, it's a totally different story. You can basically spend your entire time eating, drinking and relaxing right there, simply immersing yourself in Shamian's haste-free atmosphere.

**Location** Shamian is on the southern tip of Liwan District of Guangzhou, a small independent world surrounded by water on three sides. Guangzhou is the capital city of Guangdong Province bordering on the South China Sea, Hong Kong and Macao.

**Historical Background** More than 100 years ago, Shamian served as a depository for foreign traders after Guangzhou became an international commercial port. After the Tianjin Treaty was signed in 1858, the British and French Allied Army wanted to restore their commercial area in Guangzhou which was burnt during the Opium War and chose Shamian as the site. They rented it at a low price in 1861 and rendered Shamian into a concession of Britain and France. Later, other countries, including the United States, Portugal, Germany and Japan, joined in to build their consulates and firms, turning this area into a busy centre with its own church, bank, school, club and living quarters. Buildings in the neo-baroque, neo-classical and so-called colonial styles dominated the area with their distinct features.

It was not until 1949 that Shamian returned to China. In 1996, the buildings of Shamian were formally promulgated by the State Council as a major national unit of cultural relics under special protection.





## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arriving in Shamian, Guangzhou — Hotel — Lunch — Have a walk — Supper — Bar

If you come to visit Shamian from Hong Kong, please notice that besides the train setting off from the Kowloon Railway Station, there is also a tourist bus which leaves Wan Chai at 10:35 a.m. and arrives at the White Swan Hotel in Guangzhou at 2 p.m. Of course, if you are departing from a city other than Hong Kong, you will need to check out the transport options with your local travel office. Start the day amidst the bustle of Hong Kong, take a nap on the bus and wake up to an astonishing world of European buildings!

First check in at the hotel (see tips for options), then walk along the street. If you feel hungry, go straight ahead along Fourth Shamian Street, and before long you will notice an attractive building, Shengli Restaurant, at the crossroad. Built in 1920, the building was formerly the offices of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and the consulates of Denmark and Norway during different periods. Now tastefully furnished and attached to Shengli Hotel, it provides excellent Chinese food. You can sit by the window and, as you eat, watch the world go by among the old-style buildings all around.

After eating, you can take a wander through the streets of Shamian. If you feel tired, just follow the local people's example and take a rest on a bench set along the street. Later in the afternoon, you can go to the bank of the Pearl River to watch the sunset.

Although Shamian is small, there is plenty of choice in terms of restaurants for supper. Those in the Haibin area are: Languifang, which offers Thai and Chinese food; Meiguiyuan, where you can enjoy tea, roast food and chafing dishes and go to the bar, and Lusi Bar, which serves Western food and drinks....

I personally preferred the fairly distant restaurant on

Shamian Street North (near First Shamian Street), because I wanted to sample something special. I chose the Genesis Cafe, the first of its kind in Guangzhou to offer Mediterranean food. I especially recommend the Lebanese cold dish cooked with sweetgrass and millet.

It is always fun to finish off a good day by visiting a bar. Those who want to have a lively night out can go to the bars in the Haibin area, but if you are looking for a cosy tête-a-tête with friends, you should go to Yingqiao Bar on Shamian Street.

Yingqiao Bar, recently leased by college students, is mainly for tourists to swap travelling experiences and show their photos. The manager of the bar has put his own photos on the walls in the hope that

customers will follow suit. It closes at 2 a.m.

### Day 2: Brunch — Qingping Medicine Market — Afternoon tea — Internet bar — Sightseeing by night on the Pearl River — Sampling tea — Return to the hotel

There's no need to wake early. You can sleep in, then go to Languifang for some Thai food for brunch. (After the meal, go to Shamian Hotel at Shamian Street South to book your boat ticket for sightseeing by night on the Pearl River.)

Shop for souvenirs. The most convenient place is the Qingping Medicine Market. After crossing the pedestrian bridge on North Street, you will come to a three-storey European-style building, which houses the Qingping Medicine Market. Holding more than 500 shops, it has a great variety of medicinal herbals at reasonable prices.

The afternoon teatime, go to the coffee room of the White Swan Hotel and enjoy its five-star service.

After that, you may want to go to the Henan.net Bar at Third Shamian Street to e-mail your friends and tell them all about Shamian....

In the evening you can go sightseeing by boat on the Pearl River. The boat leaves Xidi Wharf at 7 p.m. Enjoy the beautiful night scenes of



1. The indoor swimming pool of Shamian was built in 1887.
2. Each of Shamian's characteristic building has its own story to tell.
3. Local people of Shamian know how to enjoy life.
4. Yingqiao Bar is a favourite of backpack travellers.
5. Genesis Cafe offers Mediterranean food.





the river while eating supper on the boat.

After an one-and-a-half hour trip, return to the hotel for a brief rest and then visit the

### Day 3: Breakfast — Library — Visit a hairdresser's shop — Lunch — Leave for home

Go to any nearby small restaurant to eat, or dine at the 24-hour 7-11 shop on Shamian Street South (just opposite the White Swan Hotel).

(Please remember to vacate your room and store your luggage in the hotel after breakfast, then go to the White Swan Hotel to book your journey home.)

If you are interested in European-style architecture, you can take a look at some. The Cultural Centre on North Shamian Street (closed on Mondays and Thursdays) provides an excellent reading environment and holds regular exhibitions free of charge. The reading rooms are filled with a strong classical atmosphere that transports you back in time.

If you wish, you can go to a barbershop to have your hair washed and enjoy a head massage. An ordinary shop charges about 10 yuan, while a more formal hairdresser's charges about 25 yuan.

For lunch you can choose any restaurant to suit your taste, since you are already familiar with the options. After lunch, go back to the hotel for your luggage and head for your departure point.



## Tips for the Traveller

### Transport

China Travel Service has buses running between Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

Hong Kong — White Swan Hotel, Guangzhou

Station	Wan Chai Ferry	Hong Kong Coliseum	CTS Mong Kok	Huanggang
Time	10:35	10:40	10:55	11:45
	13:25	13:30	13:45	14:35

Guangzhou — Hong Kong

Station	White Swan Hotel	China Hotel
Time	14:25	14:45
	16:55	17:20

### Train

Seven trains leave Hong Kong for Guangzhou between 8:25 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Journey: two hours.

### Accommodation

**White Swan Hotel \*\*\*\*** Add: 1 Shamian Street South, Guangzhou; Tel: (20) 8188 6968; Website: [www.whiteswanhotel.com](http://www.whiteswanhotel.com); Rate: From US\$140/standard room.

### Guangdong Shengli Hotel \*\*\*

Add: 54 Shamian Street or 53 Shamian Street North (New Building); Tel: (20) 8186 2622 ext. 3109; Rate: From HK\$ 280/standard room.

(The former Victoria Hotel built by the British at the beginning of the 20th century, this is the only starred hotel with classical European style in Guangzhou.)

**Guesthouse of the Foreign Affairs Office of Guangdong Province (Guangzhou Youth Hostel)** Add: 2 Fourth Shamian Street; Tel: (20) 8188 4298; Rate: 50 yuan /bed in 8-bed room, 70 yuan /bed in 3-bed room, 100 yuan /single-bed room, public bathroom; 170-210 yuan /double room with bathroom.

### Restaurants

**Shengli Restaurant** Add: 54 Shamian Street; Tel: (20) 8186 2622; Business hours: 6:45-24:00.

**Genesis Cafe** Add: 35-37 Shamian Street North; Tel: (20) 8186 9825; Business hours: 11:00-1:00.

**Yingqiao Bar** Add: 18 Shamian Street; Tel: (20) 8188 6353; Business hours: 16:00-2:00(from Monday to Friday), 14:00-2:00 (Saturday and Sunday).

**Languifang** Add: 5 Shamian Street South; Tel: (20) 8191 9733; Business hours: 11:00-4:00.

**Meiguiyuan (Rose Garden)** Add: Shamian Street South; Business hours: 14:00-4:00.

### Internet Bar

**Henan.net** Add: 3 Third Shamian Street; Internet charge: 20 yuan per hour.

### Night cruise on the Pearl River (setting off from Xidi Wharf)

Regular steamship services:

**Cruise No. 1:** Departs 19:00 (meal; introduction to the scenic spots on the Pearl River, Karaoke).

**Cruise No. 2:** Departs 20:00 (coffee or milk tea; introduction to the scenic spots on the Pearl River; Karaoke).

**Cruise No. 3:** Departs 21:00 (service as above).

Voyage: 1.5 hours; Cost: 38 yuan per person (coverage as mentioned).

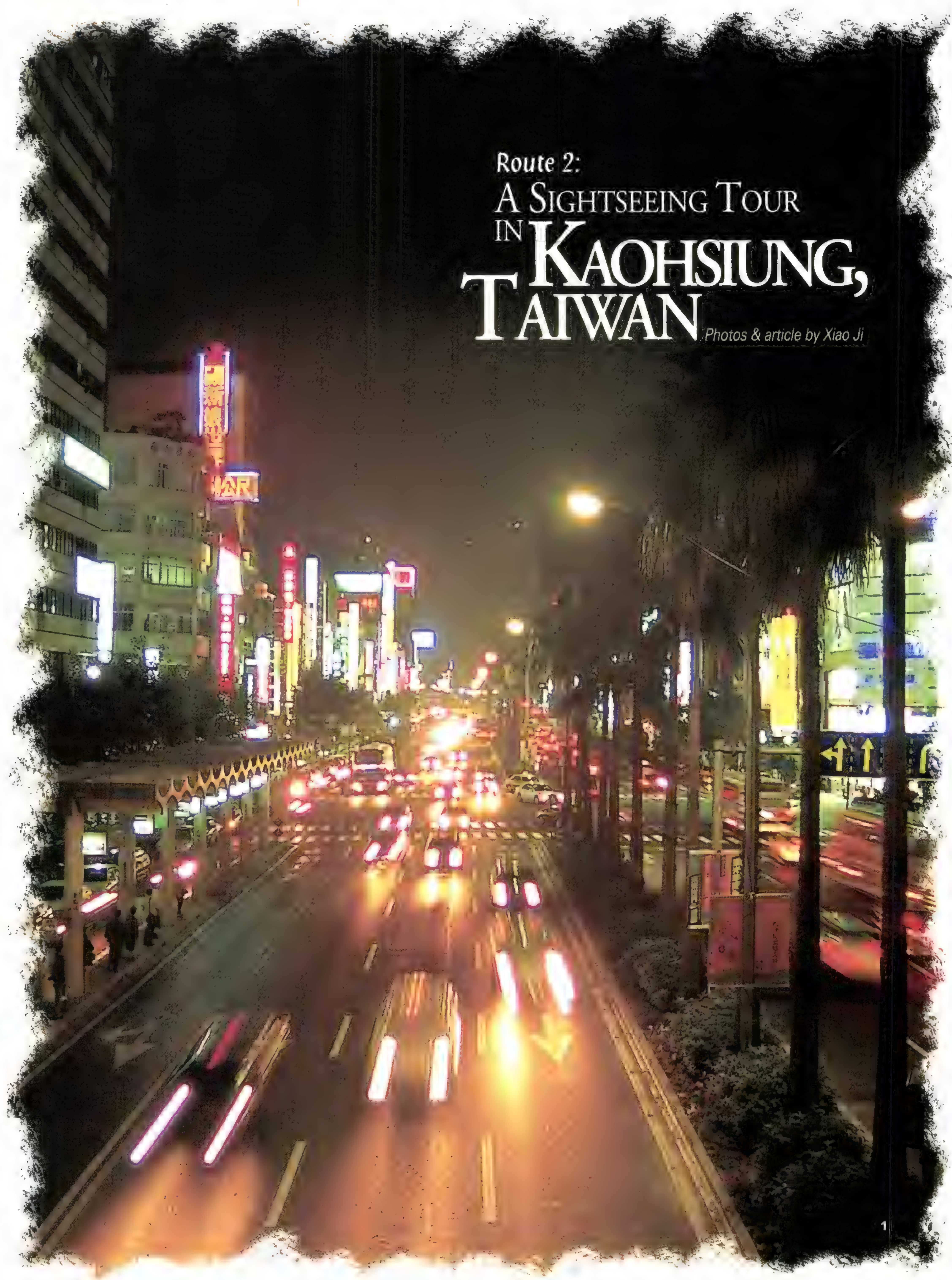
Registration: Shamian Hotel, 52 Shamian Street South.





Route 2:  
A SIGHTSEEING TOUR  
IN **KAOHSIUNG,**  
**TAIWAN**

*Photos & article by Xiao Ji*





The city of Kaohsiung in Taiwan carries a very masculine image to my mind. As Taiwan's most important industrial city and the world's third biggest container port, the city seems to be full of "macho" power and grandeur. Yet when I set aside my prejudices and throw myself into its embrace for long enough to penetrate the surface, I find the "macho" male who outwardly appears so cold and unfeeling is inwardly an accomplished and fascinating young girl, full of passion and beauty.

As soon as I set foot in Kaohsiung, I was drawn into the busy and prosperous atmosphere of the city. Department stores and restaurants, big and small, beckon from First Chungshan Road, where I saw many young people who had dyed their hair golden and wore fancy silver earrings and the latest fashions. The huge department stores, such as Shin Kong Mitsukoshi, Hanshin, Top Plaza, Tali Isetan, Pacific Sogo and New Chueh Chiang Market are soliciting customers from all directions....

Just as attractive as the big shopping centres are its cultural sites and establishments and its historical legacy. The National Science and Technology Museum, Kaohsiung History Museum and Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts provide a glimpse of another side of Kaohsiung. The Sanfeng Palace thronged with worshippers, the Holy Rosary Cathedral, the first Catholic church in Taiwan, and the Former British Consulate at the top of a mountain, all bear witness to Kaohsiung's history.

As for the beauty of Kaohsiung, the Lotus Pond in Tsoying and Hsitzuwan Beach and the Chichin Island are its best showcases. Lotus Pond is as smooth as a mirror, with many buildings of classical elegance dotted along the shore. On the Hsitzuwan Beach, the beautiful lonesome pier stretches into the sea, offering the ideal spot for a person to take a walk and enjoy views of the sea. At sunset, you can board a ferry from Kushan Ferry Terminal for Chichin. As the ship advances slowly against the wind in the sea, the dazzlingly bright port capital glows in the distance at night....

## Itinerary

**Day 1: Fly to Kaohsiung and go shopping in the downtown area (half day) — Tuntex 85 Plaza (2 hours) — Liuho Night Market (2 hours)**



**Downtown Shopping** Shopping centres are everywhere in Kaohsiung. First make your way to the downtown area, where you can both shop and familiarise yourself with the place.

**First Zhongshan Road** Besides the famous gramophone shops and bookstores on this road, there are also branch stores of Sin Tung Yang, which is noted for its authentic Taiwan food and snacks. Near Second Liuho Road, there are many shops selling wedding garments.

**Location:** On the opposite side of Kaohsiung Railway Station.

**Transport:** Take any bus to the Railway Station and get off at the terminus.

**New Chueh Chiang Market and Yuansu Plaza** This is the centre of the fashionable culture of Kaohsiung's youth, where clothes of the latest style and many outlandish items are on sale.

**Location:** New Chueh Chiang Market lies between Lane 167 of Second Wenheng Road and Culture Road, and Yuansu Plaza is just close by.

**Transport:** Walk along First Chungshan Road to get there.

**Japanese-Style Department Stores** Kaohsiung has many big department stores, which are spacious and provide first-rate service, as they are under Japanese-style management. They are ideal places to browse and shop. Taiwan's famous bookstores have branches in some of these department stores.

**Hanshin Department Store:** 266 First Chengkung Road;

**Tali Isetan Department Store:** 59 Third Wufu Road;

**Heping Shop of Datung Department Store:** 218 First Heping Road;

**Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store:** 213 Santou Road;

**Pacific Sogo Department Store:** 215 Third Santou Road;

**Chientai Daimaru Department Store:** 3, Third Ziqiang Road.

**Tuntex 85 International Plaza** This is the highest building in Kaohsiung, best for visiting in the evening. The super high-speed elevator can send you to the 73rd floor within 43 seconds, where you can look out at the fascinating night scene of the entire Kaohsiung city through the 360-degree viewing window. If you wish, have dinner

1. Chungshan Road is the busiest commercial centre in Kaohsiung.
2. Besides tasting snacks, you can also buy various souvenirs at Liuho Night Market.
3. For about HK\$50, you can have a meal in a nice restaurant in Kaohsiung.





there, then check out the fantastic indoor theme park at 8-11th floor.  
Admission to the viewing stand: NT\$200 /adult (100 dollars of this can be redeemed for food and drinks);

Indoor theme park: NT\$80/item; NT\$600 (through ticket);

Transport: Take buses No. 14, 70, 78, 83 and 100 to Building 85.

**Liuho Night Market** Liuho Night Market on Second Liuho Road is the best night market.

Transport: Take Bus No. 100 at Building 85 to Da Yuan Huan and walk.

**Day 2: National Museum of Science and Technology (2 hours) — Chengqing Lake (more than half day) — Hsinsing Night Market (2 hours) — Love River**

**National Museum of Science and Technology** This is the first museum of applied sciences in Taiwan. In addition to 18 exhibition halls, it has a three-dimensional cinema and a multi-media world.

Address: 720 Chiuju Road;

Opening hours: 9:00-17:00 (closed on Mondays);

Transport: Take Bus No. 60 at Kaohsiung Railway Station and get off at the Museum.

**Chengqing Lake** Known as "The West Lake of Taiwan", the Chengqing Lake is a very famous scenic spot with a peaceful environment. Close to it are the Chengqing Lake Ocean World and the educational Chengqing Lake Youth Activity Centre. There are restaurants offering roast dishes and snacks at the scenic spot.

Transport: Take Bus No. 60 at the National Museum and get off at Chengxiu Engineering School.

**Hsinsing Night Market** Fashion and clothing dominate this second largest night



**Kaohsiung Museum for Fine Arts** It features the art history of Taiwan with paintings to suit both refined and popular tastes.

Address: 20 Art Museum Road, Kushan District;

Opening hours: 9:00-17:00 (closed on Mondays);

Transport: Take Bus No. 5 at the Kaohsiung Railway Station, get off at the Hospital for Women and Children, then walk to the museum.

**Lotus Pond** Go northward from the Museum of Fine Arts and you will come to the scenic area of Lotus Pond. Along the western bank of the lake, you can visit some famous buildings such as the Confucius Temple and Dragon and Tiger Pagoda.

Transport: Take Bus No. 5 and get off at Tsoying Farmers' Association, then walk to it.

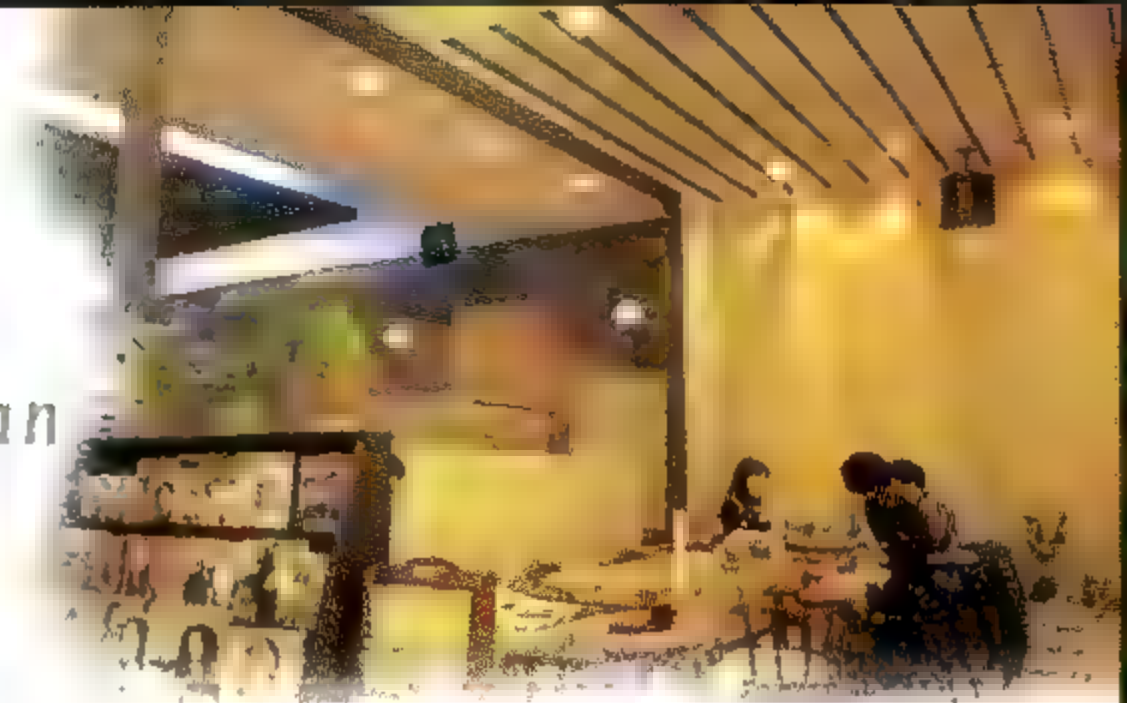
Lunch: Along the Tsoying Road are many restaurants and snack shops.

**Hsitzuwan and Chichin** When you come to the neighbouring area of Kaohsiung Harbour in the afternoon, you first take a ferry at Kushan



1. The Former British Consulate is a tourist spot now.
2. Touring the Chichin Island by pedicab.
3. Visitors come to Sanfeng Kung Temple to worship Nalakuvara, the Jade Emperor, as well as Buddhist images of the Goddess of Mercy and Manjusri.
4. Kaohsiung Port is the largest international port in Taiwan and one of the five largest in the world.
5. Inside the Holy Rosary Cathedral.





Ferry to get to Chichin Island. The Chihou Lighthouse, Chihou Battery, Tienhou Kung Temple, Seashore Park, bathing beach, marine biology museum and the tombs of 25 fair maidens, are all places worth visiting. Then you can go to Hsitzuwan to visit the Former British Consulate. Watch sunset at the pier and then take the ferry back to Chichin to sample its famous seafood.

**Transport:** Take Bus No. 5 to go back to Kaohsiung Railway Station and change to Bus No. 1 to Linhai (Seaside) Road. Walk to Kushan Ferry to take a ship to Chichin. The ferry takes about 10 minutes.

**Supper:** The seafood restaurants on Chichin are

concentrated around the port and the Tienhou Kung Temple. On the Third Chichin Road you can find food stalls offering delicious but inexpensive seafood, sold at NT\$ 100 (about HK\$25) a dish.

**Bar Area on Fourth Wufu Road** To make the most of your last evening in Kaohsiung, it's time to experience Kaohsiung's bar culture. **Transport:** Take Bus No. 50 and get off at Wufu Road.

**Day 4: Kaohsiung History Museum (1.5 hours) — Holy Rosary Cathedral (20 minutes) — Sanfeng Kung Temple (20 minutes)**

**City History Museum** The History Museum is a complex of buildings in Japanese architectural style. A visit here will provide



Gothic and Roman architectural styles, this is the first Catholic church of Taiwan. Its interior will give you a pleasant surprise.

**Address:** 151 Third Wufu Road;

**Transport:** Take Bus No. 14 at the History Museum and get off at the station of Kaohsiung Girls' Middle School.

**Mass time:** Monday — Friday: 6:00 (in Taiwan dialect); Saturday: 20:00 (in both standard Chinese and Taiwan dialect); Sunday: 6:00 (in Taiwan dialect), 9:00 (in standard Chinese), 10:30 (in English), 16:00 (in standard Chinese).

**Sanfeng Kung Temple** The image of Nalakuvara is worshipped. The two most precious cultural relics in the temple are the wooden statue of Nalakuvara, more than 300 years old, and the 100-year-old divine sedan chair.

**Address:** 134 Second Hebei Road;

**Transport:** Take buses No. 5, 18 and 88 and get off at Sanfeng Kung Street Central, or walk along Third Jienkuo Road, Lide Street, and Second Hebei Road. It takes about 20 minutes.

That winds up the four-day tour and it's time to head home.

## Tips for the Traveller

### Transport

China Airlines and Dragon Air have direct flights from Hong Kong to Kaohsiung. Take Bus No. 12 or other buses from the airport to the Railway Station at the city centre.

### Accommodation

**Tourist hotels:**

**The Ambassador Hotel** Add: 202 Second Minsheng Road; Tel: (07) 211 5211; Rate: NT\$4,500 or above.

**Howard Plaza Hotel** Add: 311 First Chihhsien Road; Tel: (07) 236 2323; Rate: NT\$4,500 or above.

**Budget hotels:**

**King of Kings Hotel** Add: 10 Second Bade Road; Tel: (07) 241 3011; Rate: NT\$800-1,500.

**Songshan Hotel** Add: 100 First Chihhsien Road; Tel: (07) 226 2266; Rate: NT\$ 800-1,500.

**Hostels:**

**Juigu Hotel** Add: 75 First Chihhsien Road; Tel: (07) 224 0501; Rate: NT\$ 800 or below.

**International Youth Hostel** Add: 120 First Wenwu Street; Tel: (07) 201 2477; Rate: NT\$300.

Note: Most hotels are concentrated around the Railway Station.

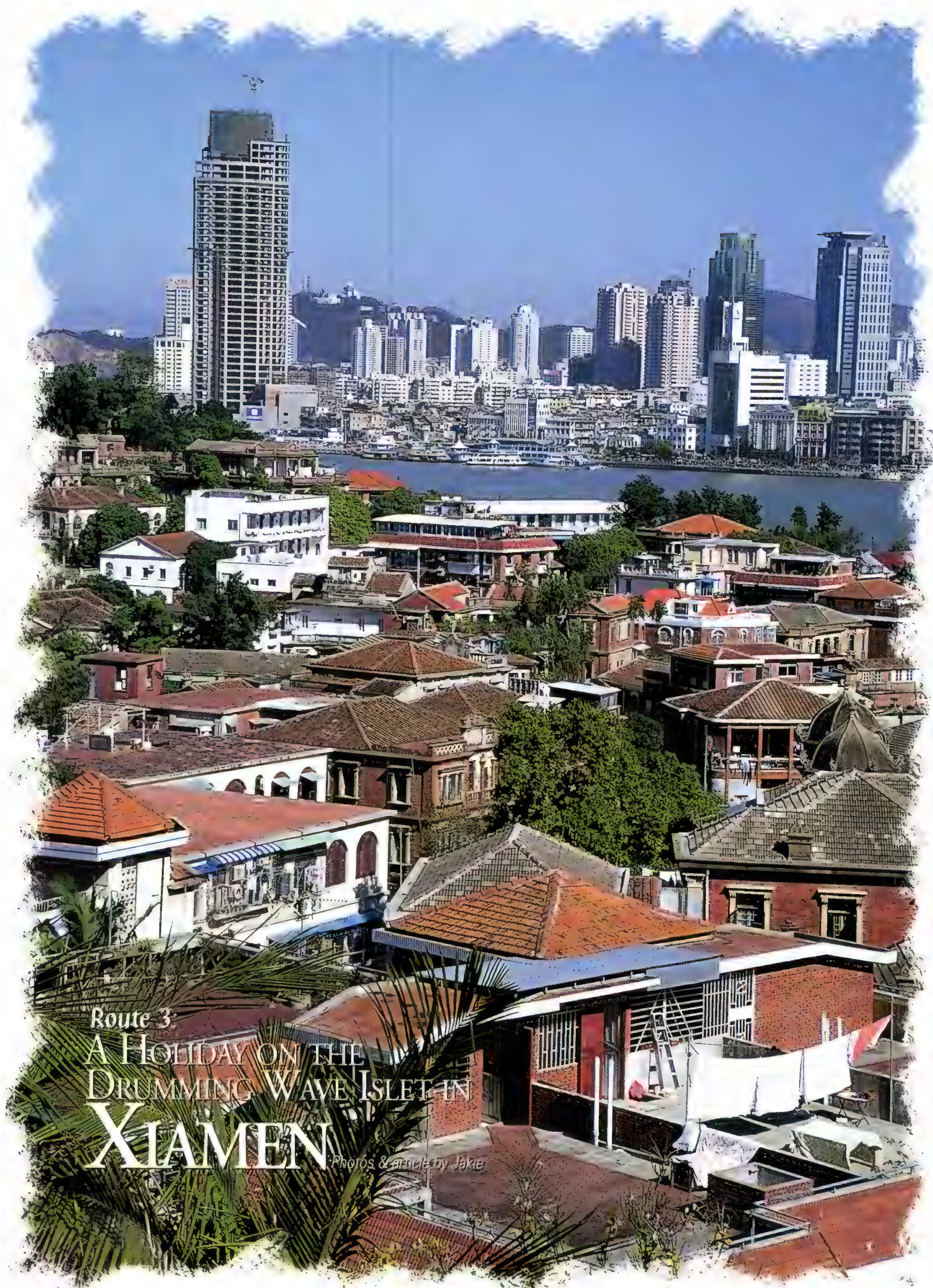
### Climate

Kaohsiung's average temperature is 24.5°C in spring. There is a lot of sunshine. Sun-block cream is essential.

### Notice

1. Tour guide pamphlets are provided at the airport, free of charge.
2. Buy a city map of Kaohsiung at any of the 7-11 shops.
3. It is very convenient to take public buses. Spend NT\$ 12 and you can cover quite a distance.
4. Except the snacks, you can bargain when purchasing goods at night markets.





Route 3

A HOLIDAY ON THE  
DRUMMING WAVE ISLET IN  
XIAMEN

Photos & article by Jackie



I was the last passenger to board the ferry bound for Gulangyu (Wave Drumming Islet). I found myself standing by the ferry rail, a vantage position to gaze into the distance across the vast harbour. On the 600-metre-wide Lujiang River, I saw big ships and small steamboats near and far, and flocks of white egrets skimming in the water or circling in the air. Some stood still on buoys, as if they were sleeping. The dazzling sun bathed the ferry as we finally sailed out.

In less than 10 minutes, the ferry reached the island pier. As soon as I set foot on Gulangyu, I caught sight of the nearby lawns, their grass growing lush and long, and the many trees lining the roads. Some had flat crowns spreading like green umbrellas. The lawns and the trees enhance each other's beauty, emitting an atmosphere of freshness and vitality.

Although it covers only 1.78 square kilometres, the Wave Drumming Islet enjoys a high reputation as a "garden on the sea". Wherever you go on the islet, you can see tree-shaded areas and beautiful flowers. Automobiles are banned, electric carts being the only powered transportation. There are no exhaust fumes or noise and the environment here is beautiful and quiet. It also enjoys the reputation of being an "island of music" for the place has fostered many famous musicians, including pianist Yin Chengzong. Playing musical instruments is a popular pastime here, particularly the piano, and children are especially encouraged to do so. Thus tourists on the



island can often hear the sweetest melodies wafting through the air.

There are several bathing beaches along the coastline. Visitors can swim in the clear sea, stroll along the beach, or lie on the soft sand, soaking in the warm sunshine and listening to the sound of the waves. The sea breeze can help dispel feelings of irritability and anxiety.

There are a number of exotic buildings on the island. After Xiamen was listed as a trade port after the Opium War of the 1840s, foreign residents built houses, villas and churches. Some are well preserved.

### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Arriving in Xiamen — Gulangyu

After checking in at your hotel, you can walk around on this small island (depending on the time of your arrival). In the evening, go to see if there is any performance at the Concert Hall. Music programmes are posted on a billboard outside the hall, and it is usually easy to buy a ticket.

#### Day 2: Riguang Rock — Aviary — Meihua Bathing Beach

You will walk along a number of mountainous paths. After about a 30-minute walk along Yanping Road, you will arrive at the Sanqiutian Tourism Ferry, then take a winding trail up to the mountain. As you take in the scenery in the north of the island, you head towards Riguang (Sunlight) Rock. It takes 45-60 minutes to get there. If you don't want to climb the mountain via the winding trails, you need only walk along

1. Ancient and simple residential houses on Gulangyu and the skyline of Xiamen form a striking contrast.
2. A fishing boat unloading its catch at the port.
3. On weekends and holidays, many people flock to Gangzaihou Bathing Beach.





Huangyan Road, which takes about 30 minutes.

Riguang Rock is also called Dragon Head Mountain, or Huangyan Rock. Legend has it that the famous Ming-dynasty general Zheng Chenggong led his soldiers to Huangyan Rock and named it after Mount Nikkozan (Sunlight) in Japan. From the top of the mountain, you will have a bird's-eye view of the island and the city of Xiamen. Climbing to the 100-metre-high platform, you will find that Haicang Bridge, Bagua Chamber and Sanyi Hall are right before your eyes.

Descending Rihuang Rock, you can visit two scenic spots — Dragon Head Fortress and Zhongqiu Bobing. Not far from the front of the fortress is a small and exquisite temple — the Riguang Rock Temple. Originally called the Lotus Nunnery, it was one of the four famous nunneries in Xiamen. The Zheng Chenggong Memorial Hall, on Quanzhou Road, is worth the 20-30 minute walk. You will find that the exterior of the memorial hall is magnificent. The hall houses many exhibits, including copper guns, cane shields and swords.

Because the food at the Riguang Rocks is simple but expensive, it's better to take along some food for lunch. After lunch, a cable car can take you to visit the Qinyuan Aviary. It takes about five minutes to get there. From outside the garden gate, you can hear the sound of melodious birdsong. This is where the birds live in a netted aviary covering 7,000 square metres. More than 1,000 birds of over 100 species from different parts of the world are raised here.

Descending the stairs from the Qinyuan Aviary, you will get to Meihua Bathing Beach after 20 minutes. As evening approaches, don't miss the charming scene of the fishing boats with their lights glowing.

## Day 3: Ferry — Haoyue Garden — Shuzhuang Garden — Gangzaihou Bathing Beach

After breakfast, visit the fishing port where fish are unloaded. Early in the morning, fishermen come to the dock to sell their catch to the

dealers, who then transport it to the market. Various kinds of vegetables and fruits, building materials, and daily necessities are all shipped from Xiamen to the islet through this dock.

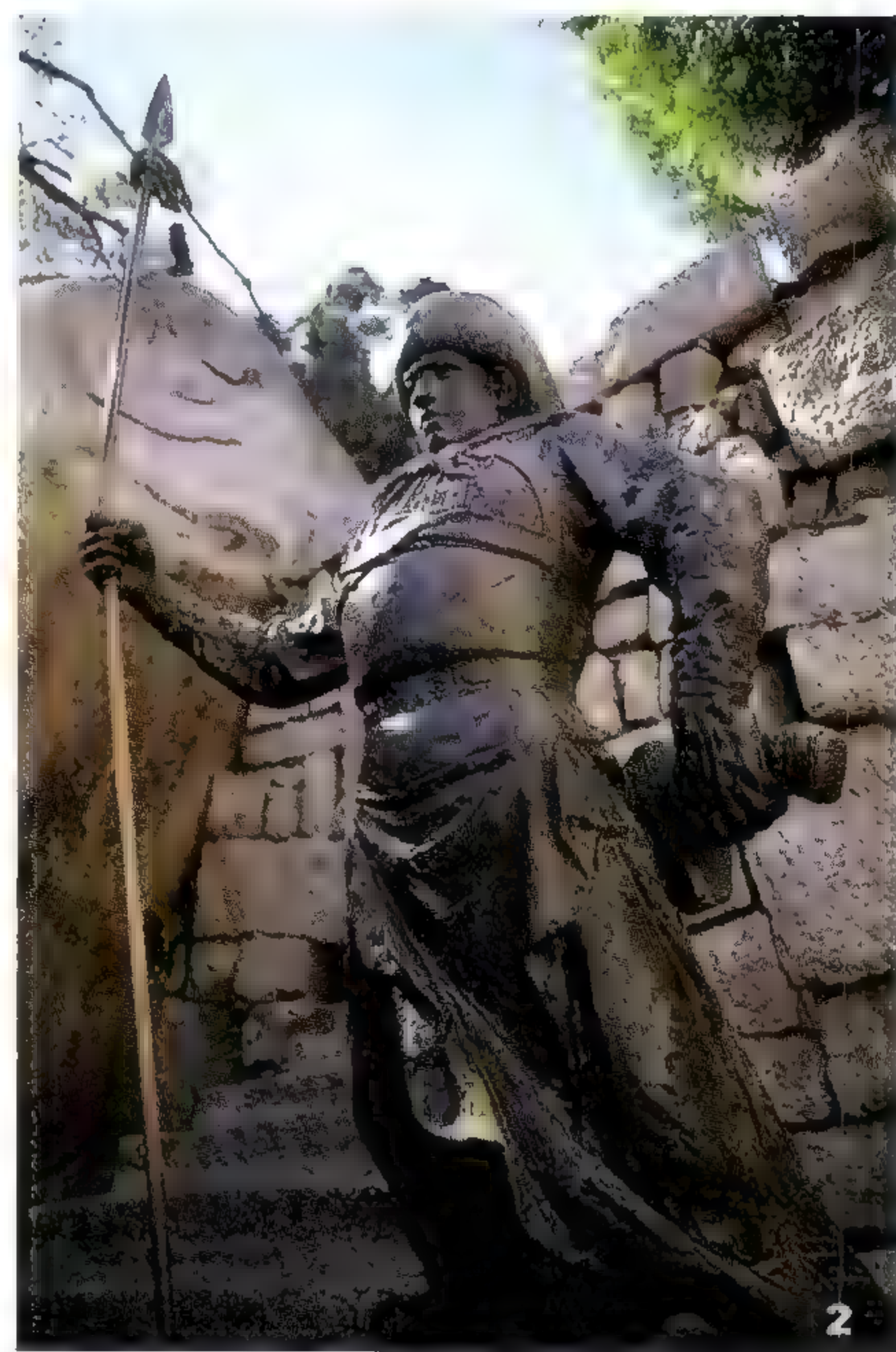
Looking to the right from the dock, you will see a statue of Zheng Chenggong, located in the Haoyue Garden. Walking along Zhangzhou

Road for 30-45 minutes, you will reach the sculpture garden in memory of Zheng Chenggong. Within the garden, there are groups of bronze relief sculptures, a corridor with relief sculptures, and a miniature-sculpture hall.

After leaving the Haoyue Garden, walk along Guanhai Road for an hour to the Shuzhuang Garden. You can have lunch in a restaurant halfway to the garden. Shuzhuang Garden was originally a private villa built in 1913 and owned by Lin Erjia, a rich businessman from Taiwan. Later, it was set aside as a park. Scenic spots inside include Meishou Hall, Renqiu Tower, Zhenshuai Pavilion, 44 Bridges, and 12 Caves. Its Tingtao Study houses a piano museum, where more than 30 pianos from different parts of the world are displayed.

Nearby is the Gangzaihou Bathing Beach, with many open-air eating places along the road. A pot of Tieguangyin Tea will refresh you and wipe out all your fatigue.

## Day 4: Haitian Tanggou — Philippine Residences — Catholic Church — Former Japanese Police Station — Lin Family Mansion — Meiyuan Garden — Xu Family Mansion — Bagua Chamber (Xiamen Museum)



2



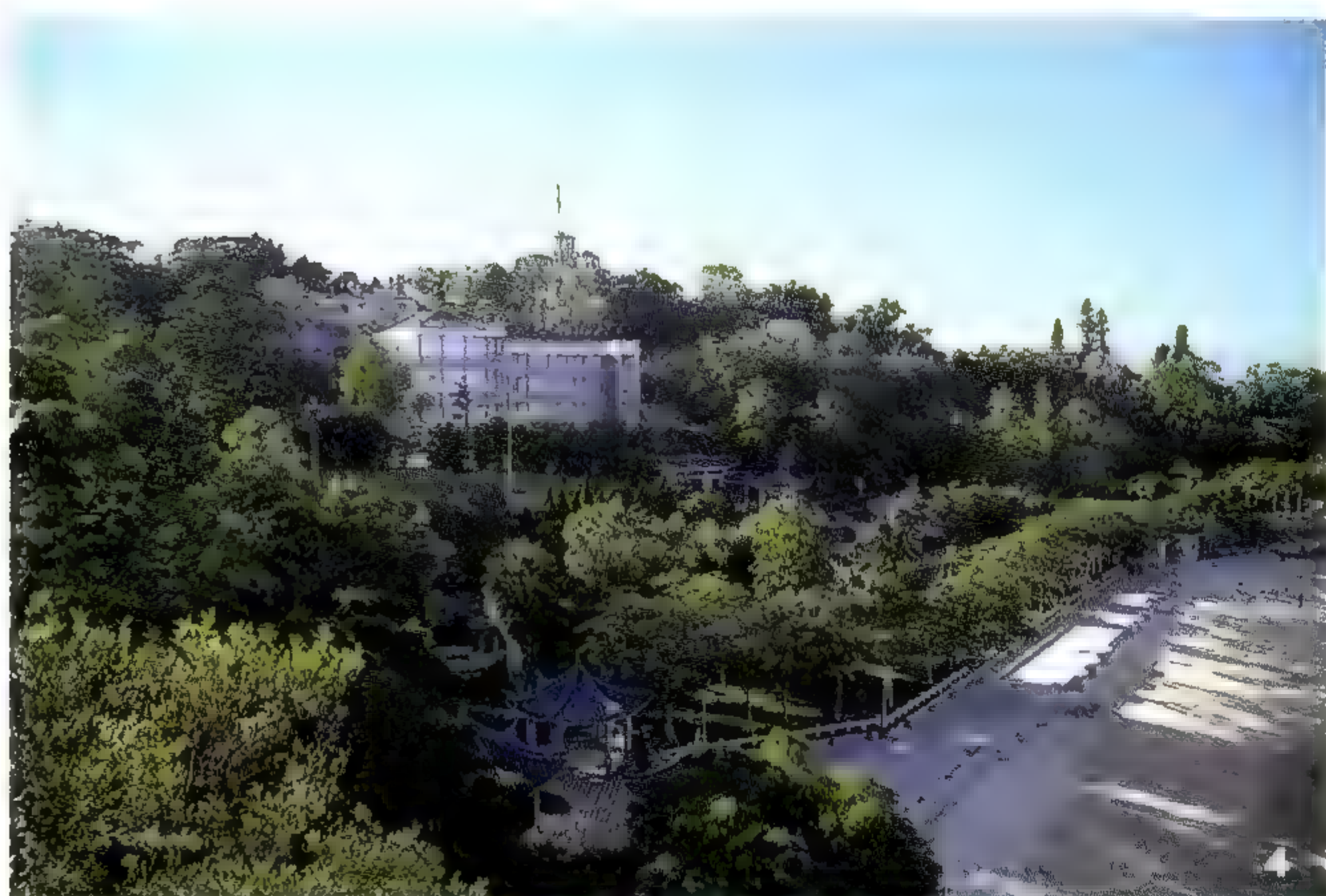
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1. From the Shuzhuang Garden, tourists can view the Taiwan Straits.
2. A statue in the Dragon Head Fortress.
3. The Xu Family Mansion, built in the 1930s, is located at 36 Lujiao Road.
4. Haoyue Garden, constructed in memory of Zheng Chenggong, is close to Fuding Bathing Beach.
5. The Riguang Rock Temple used to be one of the four major nunneries in Xiamen.



3





Gulangyu has many exotic buildings, mainly concentrated on Fujian and Lujiao roads. They are well sign-posted. Since some of these have already been turned into local private residences, be sure that you get the residents' permission before you enter them. It takes about one hour to go through the above mentioned houses.

At 24 Fujian Road is a three-storey building painted in red and white, named Haitian Tanggou. Built by a family of overseas Chinese from the Philippines, it has a mixed Chinese-Western flavour. The following building on the same street, at 26, 28 and 30, are a group of Philippine villas built in a European style. At 44 is also a Philippine residential house but built in southern Fujian architectural style. Turning a corner at the end of a lane, you will see the Catholic Cathedral. This Gothic structure is the first Western building on Lujiao Road. The church is gorgeously decorated.

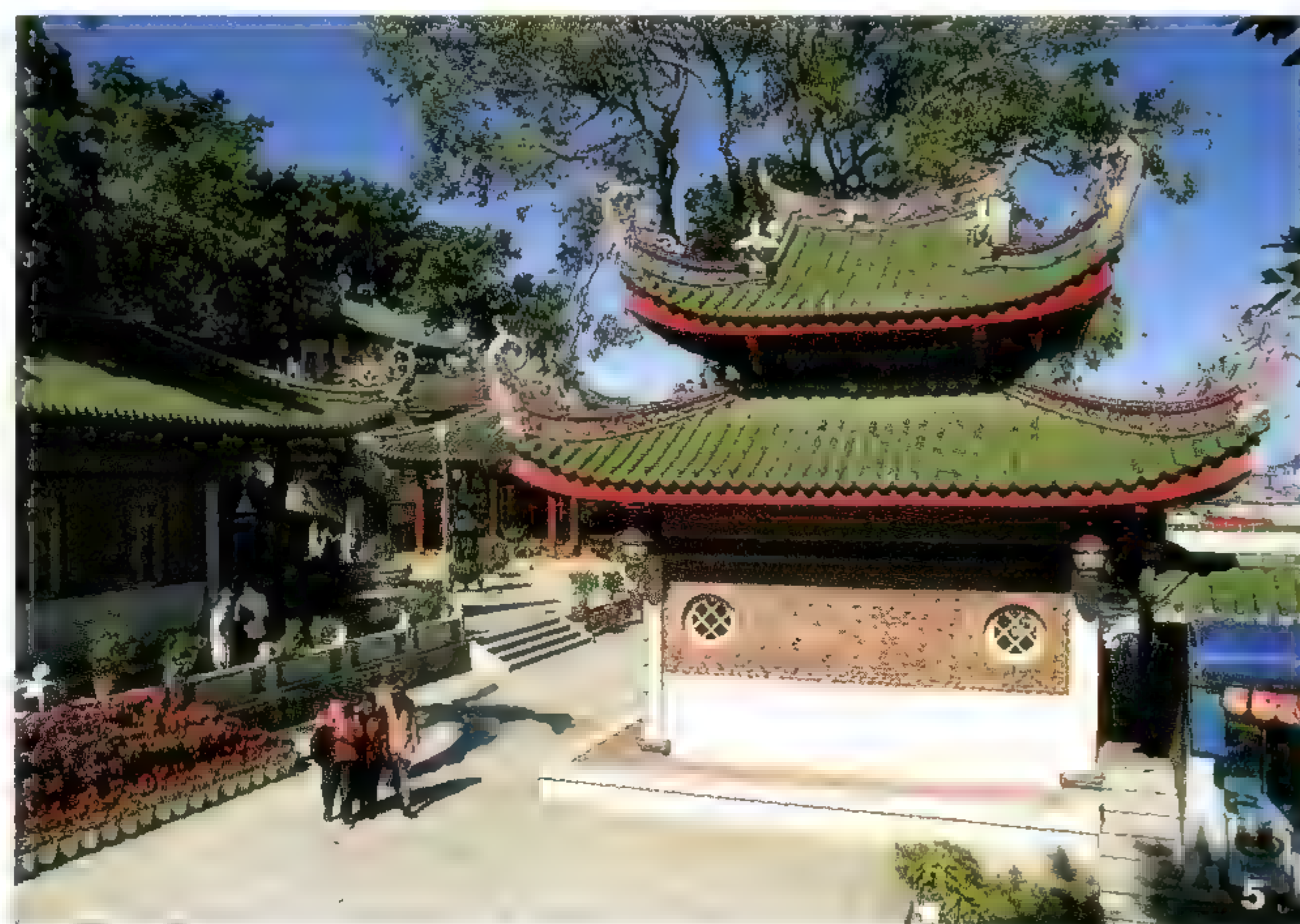
Close to the church is the Former Japanese Police Station. The houses at 13, 15, 17 and 19 on Lujiao Road all belong to the Lin Family Mansion whose owner was also Lin Erjia, who owned the Shuzhuang

Garden. The mansion has the Greater Tower, Lesser Tower, and Octagonal Tower. On the door lintels and window lattices of the Octagonal Tower are patterns of flowers and pigeons, displaying exquisite workmanship. Meiyuan Garden is located at 7 Lujiao Road. On its opposite side of the road, at 36, is the Xu Family Mansion. Both houses were built by overseas Chinese from the Philippines.

After visiting the two roads, you can take lunch on Huangyan Road. After lunch, a 45-minute walk brings you to the Xiamen Museum, also known as the Bagua Building, on Guxin Road. Located at the foot of Bijia Hill, its stands as the symbol of Gulangyu. The building of the museum displays a mixture of ancient Palestinian, Greek and Chinese architectural styles.

In the evening, don't forget to sample the seafood on Longtou Road. After dinner, you can enjoy the night scene, illuminated by green lamps. Trip ends and you go home the next day.

*Translated by Xiong Zhenru, Jin Jianzhong*



## Tips for the Traveller

### Transport

After leaving the airport, turn left, and walk straight ahead for about 15 minutes to the bus station.

### From Airport to Xiamen-Gulangyu Ferry

Take Bus No.27 to the ferry, which takes about one hour; Fare: 1 yuan. Of course, you can take a taxi from the airport to the ferry, which takes 30 minutes and costs about 50 yuan.

### From the Ferry to Gulangyu

You only need a one-way ticket for the ferry. Fare: 3 yuan. You need to buy some special coins at the ticket office before passing through the check-in. There is a ferry every 15 minutes, and the journey takes 8-10 minutes.

### Accommodation

Go ashore and walk along Longtou Road until you come to a fork. On the left side is the reasonably priced Lizhidao Hotel. The rate for a double-bed standard room with windows is 145 yuan (low season). Without windows, the charge is much lower. The service in the hotel is excellent, with free newspapers provided every day. It is only a one-minute walk from the Concert Hall.

### Tourist Services

Electric carts at the dock offer you a ride around the island, accompanied by a tour guide; Charge: 50 yuan per person; Business hours: 8:00-18:00.

### Admissions and Opening Hours

Shuzhuang Garden	8:15-17:15	20 yuan
Riguang Rock & Aviary	8:00-17:00	40 yuan
Haoyue Garden	7:00-22:00	15 yuan

### Notice

1. Although there are signposts everywhere, some are not very clear. In some cases, two lanes have the same name. So a map is advisable, which you can buy at a news stall near the ferry (3.5 yuan).
2. Dried pork, shredded meat, dried meat floss, dried fish floss and meat pies are famous local foods on the island. At the shop opposite the Lizhidao Hotel, you get these by paying about 20 yuan for a package.
3. At the corner of Longtou Road, there is a restaurant called Dapaidang, offering a wide range of dishes. The snacks are inexpensive and substantial. The shop owner is cordial and friendly.





# The Thousand-Buddha Cliff in Jiajiang

*Photos & article by Hong Lan*

Jiajiang was already a famous place before the county was established in the Sui Dynasty (581-618).

As early as in 300 B.C., King Huiwen of Qin decided to set up the Shu Prefecture. As the place was sparsely populated at the time, he ordered the migration of some 10,000 people from the Jinghe River valley in Shaanxi Province to today's Sichuan Province. Naturally, the immigrants found it hard to get used to living in a strange place and yearned for home. In order to pacify them, the officials

in charge told the immigrants that their new home was none other than "the south estuary of Jinghe River". They even engraved and erected a stone stele by the river to this effect. The trick was successful and the trusting folk accepted it and settled more readily around the "estuary" of their home river Jinghe.

Later in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the local magistrate Zhang Ting had the three characters "Gu Jing Kou" (Ancient Jinghe Estuary)

carved over a high mountain cliff, reinforcing the deception. Today, the three characters are still clearly visible above the numerous Buddhist niches. Unfortunately, however, the original stone stele is nowhere to be found.

Unlike some other meticulously manicured scenic spots, the ancient plank road, built over the Thousand-Buddha Cliff under the three characters, was crowded with farmers pulling carts or carrying shoulder poles. Trekking among them are also quite a number of tourists. As unkempt as the scene appears, it nevertheless retains a unique flavour of primitive simplicity.

## Cao Guojia: A Late Comer

It was indeed an interesting experience to visit the Buddhist statues at the Thousand-Buddha Cliff and the stone steles at the Wanyong Cliff with Mr. Zhou as the guide. He knew these cultural relics like the back of his hand. As we passed a spot called Zhengyi Gang, or Dressing Terrace, he tidied his clothes and told us that it was a ritual the ancients always observed to show their respect to the Buddha.

Zhou took even greater delight in talking about the outstanding works among the Buddhist statues. He pointed out that in Jiajiang there were seven or eight grottoes dedicated to the Pure Land Sect of Buddhism. Cave No. 99, for example, has long been known as the "paradise of the west" for its statues





representing more than 270 images. He also told me that the eight-foot-high statue of Maitreya is excellently formed, and very similar to the Giant Buddha in Leshan. The only difference between the two is in the direction of the palm of the right hand. As this one had appeared 80 years earlier, some experts were of the opinion that it actually served as a blueprint for the Mount Leshan Giant Buddha. He also indicated which grottoes held statues of both real historical figures and legendary celestial beings, which grottoes held four statues of the Buddha standing side by side, and from which grottoes some Buddhist statues were stolen by foreign missionaries....

According to Zhou, the Buddhist statues in Jiajiang were carved in different dynasties, from the Sui and Tang to the Ming and Qing dynasties. All the statues were roughly similar in terms of style and shape. However, he said, there were exceptions. Of particular significance was the statue of Cao Guojiu, a legendary celestial being in Taoist stories. Originally, in its place had stood a statue of the Goddess of Mercy delivering sons to families. A French missionary stole it in the 1930s, leaving a space, which had remained empty for quite some time. Then the local people had placed the statue of Cao Guojiu there, thus making this Taoist immortal a late comer.

### Jinxiang Temple: A Moving and Tragic Story

The Jinxiang Temple lies in a more remote spot. Standing in isolation amidst farming fields and farmers' houses, and with fewer visitors, it hosts a serene quietness. The Buddhist niches on the temple's stone walls were carved in the Ming Dynasty. The niches are rather deep and the Buddhist images meticulously designed in high relief. The Thousand-Hand-and-Thousand-Eye Buddha, in particular, can indeed be regarded as a true work of art. Over a long period, the pious men and women in the locality have tended the statues with the utmost care and protection. In the 1980s, the temple underwent major repair with colour added to the statues.

There is a moving yet sad story surrounding the Jinxiang Temple. During the Kaiyuan reign of the Ming Dynasty, a monk called Deran travelled extensively to beg alms for the purpose of expanding the original small, out-of-the-way temple. He made great efforts but received little funding. He finally burned himself to raise attention. People were moved by his sincerity and handed over their funds, which resulted in the building of the present temple and the creation of the numerous Buddhist images.

Although Monk Deran's action was considered to be of great merit in Buddhism, the temple itself bore neither his statue nor even a stele dedicated to him. I raised the question with Mr. Zhou. He said that a true Buddhist would not hanker after either fame or personal recognition. In fact, when he did it, he did not even expect the people to pass down his story.

Nowadays, only two people, 72-year-old Li Yunlong and his wife, live in the temple. They grow flowers and vegetables in the courtyard. The flowers beautify the temple while the vegetables satisfy the old couple's



own need. Their industriousness and rusticity endow the serene temple with a sense of provincialism.


### Lamp-Burning Buddha: Healing Hope of the Folks

Upon our departure, Mr. Li told me there is another temple across the Qingyi River, which houses a statue of the Lamp-Burning Buddha. Though not so large in size, it is very interesting. Whenever he suffers from any sickness, he would go there and pray to it for a blessing.

Taking a small boat, we crossed the river and walked for about 10 minutes until we reached the temple. From the outside, the building appears more like a storeroom than a temple. In the simple and crude large hall, there is only one poorly drawn Buddhist image on a straw mat. Despite this, however, there are quite a number of burning incense sticks in front of it. This seems to illustrate that no matter how humble the image may look, a Bodhisattva can

render the protection you need as long as you are sufficiently pious.

What is most interesting about the temple itself is the stone Buddhist statue at its rear, the Lamp-Burning Buddha. Over two metres high, the statue is a work of art produced before the Ming Dynasty. All over its body are sites on which burning lamps can be placed. Those coming to worship are mainly local villagers suffering from various illnesses. When a person suffers from an ailment in a certain part of his or her body, he or she would light a lamp and place it in the corresponding part of the statue and then pray to it devoutly. According to the local people, their worshipping is quite effective. For many years this statue stands as an expression of the local people's hope for sound health.

Returning by the same boat, we rushed to catch a bus back. On the way, we passed the famous Roll-Calling Platform. It is said that, when Zhuge Liang led a southern expedition during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280), he once made roll calls and watched troops parading there. I hurried up to the platform in order to get a sense of being the general commander, envisaging hundreds of thousands of troops marching past down below and on into the large tract of flatland. 

*Translated by Z. G. Li*

1. Statues housed in Jinxiang Temple are exquisitely carved.
2. The Lamp-Burning Buddha, to whom the folks pray for good health.
3. The old man Li who takes care of Jinxiang Temple.
4. The Thousand-Buddha Cliff on the bank of Qingyi River.





# Delicacies of the Dai People

## — The Old Educated Youths Restaurant in Kunming

Photos & article by Li Zhixiong

*There are 25 minority ethnic groups living in Yunnan, and each has its own folk customs and special food. The Old Educated Youths Restaurant on Cuihu Road South in Kunming specialises in the delicacies of the Dai people.*

*Dai cuisine is very rich. Its cooking methods range across more than 120 different types within six main categories: roasting, steaming, mincing, pickling, boiling and frying. The dishes with pork as the main ingredient are cooked by roasting meat slices, steaming minced*



**The "Old Educated Youths" Restaurant**

Address: 4 Cuihu Road South, Kunming, Yunnan

Telephone: (871) 514 0231, 514 0453

*meat or roasting tart meat. Beef dishes are cooked by roasting shredded meat or chopping meat, and fish dishes are cooked by steaming or roasting. In general, the food of the Dai people is characterised by "sour, hot and crisp". The following is an introduction to a few dishes prepared by the Old Educated Youths Restaurant.*

### **Roast Fish with Fragrant Cogongrass**

This is a famous Dai dish. Stuff the fish's belly with onion, coriander, hot pepper, salt and condiments, bind it with fragrant cogongrass and roast over a charcoal fire. While the fish is being roasted, apply some lard to make it crisp, fresh and tender. (The price of this dish is determined by the weight of the fish. Generally it is 3 to 5 yuan per fish.)



### **Fried Cattleskin**

Clean cattleskin thoroughly, then place in a cauldron to boil until cooked. Then cut the cooked cattleskin into small pieces and dry it in the sun. To make a dish out of it, put it into oil to fry until it bubbles and turns yellow, then remove. Fried cattleskin is fragrant, crisp and tasty, and can be eaten with ketchup or added to soup.

(Price: 10 yuan a dish)

### **Baked Dried Beef**

The Yunnan people of different ethnic groups have a common habit of eating dried beef. But the Dai people's baked dried beef has a strong special flavour. The dried beef is cut into tiny pieces and eaten together with sliced red radish. (Price: 15 yuan a dish)



### **Corn Fish Cooked with Pineapple**

Place scaled, cleaned fish slices into a hollowed out pineapple and steam it. When it is done, spread the pineapple juice over the fish, garnish and serve. It is very tasty and sweet. (Price: 20 yuan a dish)







### ***Rice Cooked in Bamboo Tube***

Put glutinous rice into a section of fresh bamboo tube, soak the rice in water for 15 minutes, then place the bamboo over a taco fire. When it is done, pound the bamboo tube to soften the rice and let the bamboo's inner membrane stick to the rice. Then split the bamboo with a knife to release the fragrant and delicious baked rice. (Price: 5 yuan for a container of rice)

### ***The Dai Tart Herb***

Select fresh edible wild herb and cook it. After it is processed and specially treated by the cook, it becomes both sour and sweet and is very appetising. (Price: 5 yuan a dish)



## **Dining in Yunnan**

Anyone who wants to travel in Yunnan and sample dishes with a local flavour must take three aspects into consideration: region, season and grade.

### **Dining According to Region**

Food representing that of southern Yunnan is mainly from Tonghai and Mengzi. Jianshui's gill fungus, Shiping's bean-curd banquet and Mengzi's Guoqiao Mixian (crossing-bridge rice noodles) are all famous dishes. The region of northeastern Yunnan is the passage to the Central Plains, where communications and trade has flourished and cuisine is better developed. Bean-curd soup with vegetables, vinegar-pepper chicken, buckwheat-jelly, and crisp love pea are all well known dishes in this region. Zhaotong's diced pastry is the best in Yunnan; its taste is beyond description and you have to go there and try it yourself. If you are in northwestern Yunnan, you should not miss Dali's fish cooked in an earthenware pot and fish cooked with hot pepper and pickled vegetable. Lijiang's glutinous rice cake and "Eight-bowl Dish", Midu's rolled pig's trotters and wind-dried liver, and Tengchong's "Saving the Emperor" dish, fried pastry, and various cold dishes made with wild edible herb are all typical local flavours.

### **Dining According to Season**

In Yunnan, all delicacies come from the mountains. This is the conclusion reached by all visitors to Yunnan. From May to October is the season for the wild fungi. When you come to Yunnan during this period, you mustn't forget to taste the fungi dishes. The numerous varieties, Ganba, Jizong (Chicken), Niugan (Ox-liver), Qingtou (Green Head) and Cream are all delicacies. Jizong Fungus Banquet is the cream of the fungus dishes. In addition, edible wild herbs grow everywhere, and tree blossom and seafood are also good green food.


### **Dining According to Grade**

Anning is the best place to eat Xuanwei ham fried with onion, steamer-cooked

chicken, Yunnan-flavour mutton banquet, and fried snakehead fish slices. Lijiang's Sandieshui is one of the major dishes the Naxi people serve distinguished guests. It is actually three sets of dishes. In the first set are 20 plates laden with various snacks such as peanuts, preserved fruit and cakes. They are to accompany tea. In the second set are 20 plates of various cold dishes to accompany wine. These are served as appetisers to the main banquet. When the third round of dishes is served, there are 24 hot dishes with the local flavour. After finishing all these courses, you will feel as if you need a two-kilometre jog to help digest the food. Medicinal food, like chicken cooked with pseudo-ginseng and Chinese caterpillar fungus in a steamer, is equally famous.

### **Trying the Best of Folk Food**

Each ethnic group has its characteristic dishes and you should try the best. Among the most famous are: Bahang chicken of the Miao and Zhuang; "Stone Chicken" of the Hani in southern Yunnan; chicken or fish cooked with pickled bamboo shoots, fried dried beef and fish roasted with fragrant cogongrass of the Dai and Aini; and the Dai people's sliced chicken with pastry. Other delicacies include: the Yi people's mutton soup with fried pastry and wine made out of corn; pork stew, rice noodles cooked with blood, cake with pepper and salt, and hotpot from Wenshan; pastry cooked with pork from Weishan; roasted bean-curd from Gejiu, Mengzi, Jianshui and Shiping, as well as Kunming's popular local food, such as rice cooked with Xuanwei Ham and beans.

Yunnan's famous tea includes: Dali's Sandao and tuocho, western Yunnan's baked tea, and Chenggong's Shilixiang. Yunnan folk wine includes Dai people's rice wine and Kunming's rose wine and safflower wine. With safflower as the main ingredient, the latter is very good for the health. Yunnan's different pickled varieties and hot pickled mustard tubers also have distinctive features. 

*Translated by Xiong Zhenru*



**Safflower wine produced in Kunming.**



# Savouring Tea in Shenzhen

Photos by Shi Baoxiu, Zheng Ligang    Article by Lu Shan



*Shenzhen has two special places to enjoy tea. One is the Jingyi Teahouse, situated in the cement forest in the downtown area, the other is the Sanzhoutian Tea Garden set in an elegant environment in the suburbs. Stopping by to sample the tea in either of these can transport you from the stresses and tensions of city life to a world of peace and tranquillity.*







3

## Jingyi Teahouse

### Utter Peace and Quiet in the City Centre

Some of my older friends have often invited me out to drink Chinese tea with them, but I usually find some excuse or other to decline. Trendy bars buzzing with high-spirited young people were always a more attractive option for my "modern" friends and myself.

On this particular occasion, however, tea lovers dominated our group, so I was quite happy to go with the flow and be swept along to the Jingyi Teahouse located on Bao'an Road South in Shenzhen's business centre.

I had drunk Chinese tea in the heart of the picturesque countryside before, but never in a teahouse on the seventh floor of a building located in the busiest quarter of a big city. Even as we were being led through by a smiling receptionist in a red Manchu dress, I wasn't expecting it to be all that enjoyable.

I was soon to realise, however, that the location was by no means a disadvantage: we stepped out of the lift

into utter peace and quiet. Away from the bustle and the glaring sun, we passed by the teahouse's logo of a huge lidded teacup and found ourselves within the graceful walls of the teahouse. The 1,000-square-metre main hall is filled with the pure aroma of tea. The ceiling is dark and the windows are hung with fine bamboo blinds. Classical settings, ornately decorated floors, lamps entwined with tiny dried wisteria all contribute to create a varied and charming environment.

We sat down and began talking of this and that. The fragrance of the tea as it wafted from the rising steam was in itself relaxing, not to mention the actual tea or the quality of its making. As a young man who knew nothing about tea culture, it was beginning to occur to me that it was actually tea that held the essence of life.

### Pottery Workshop and Artistic Decoration

At the centre of the teahouse is a pottery workshop. Inside it are two large clay vats carrying soaked clay and tools for making ceramics. Several interesting works made by visitors are displayed

on the shelf behind.

Mr. Chou, a young artist who runs the workshop, told us that the workshop is open to the public. Famous pottery masters often come to teach interested visitors the craft. After nine o'clock every night, there are also live demonstrations of tea-making and live music played with traditional Chinese musical instruments such as the guzheng, xun and xiao. Chou showed us around some other parts of the teahouse. A small path paved with white pebbles leads to a cosy area — its double-seat tea tables are enveloped in a romantic environment.

People sometimes associate tea culture with Buddhism, believing meditation to be the underlying spirit of tea drinking. This sentiment is also evident in Jingyi Teahouse. In one area, we came to three wooden gates. The middle one is marked the Gate of Happiness and Wisdom; the two on its sides are the Gate of No Worries, and the Gate of Carefree. With shoes removed and palms joined, I walked into a Buddhist hall in silence with one of my friends who follows Buddhism. We sat quietly on a

1. Both the decor and the tea sets at Jingyi Teahouse are exceptionally elegant. (by Zheng Ligang)
2. A bamboo curtain divides two different worlds. (by Zheng Ligang)
3. A master concentrating on his work in the pottery workshop. (by Zheng Ligang)
4. Pottery works displayed in the teahouse. (by Zheng Ligang)







bench inside, listening to the floating murmurs of scripture prayers and inhaling the scent of the flowering orchid. I could have been in any one of those far-away temples had it not been for the cement building on the outside. Some publications on Buddhism are free for interested parties to take away. One of the owners of the teahouse is a devout Buddhist and had invested highly in the place in order to foster peace and friendship.

### Rooms of Different Themes

As there were not many customers in the afternoon, we continued to look around and came across some courts with poetic names. The most impressive one to me is Guige Mingxiang, meaning "Sipping Tea in an Exquisite Court".

1. An exquisite scene created by a dark ceiling, patterned floor, classical settings and lights decorated with dried wisteria. (by Zheng Ligang)
2. The vegetarian feast combines the characteristics of both the Huaiyang and Chaozhou cuisine. (by Shi Baoxiu)
3. Fine pottery in the teahouse. (by Zheng Ligang)
4. The Sanzhoutian Tea Garden is situated by a reservoir. (by Shi Baoxiu)
5. Fenghuang tea has been transplanted in Wutong Mountain, Shenzhen. (by Shi Baoxiu)

Inside is a Chaozhou-style carved bed, oil-painted in red with gold patterns and bearing a small dark table and some cushions. Colourful stage costumes and an unfinished embroidery are hanging nearby. And through the mirror of an antique dressing table, I seemed to see an image of a young lady sipping a cup of fresh tea while putting on her makeup. We had fun looking through some of the other rooms too, all based on individual themes, such as ancient musical instruments, Gongfu tea, pottery-making or body-massage.

When dusk came around, we decided to share a vegetarian feast. I'll always remember this as one of the best vegetarian feasts I've ever had. The chef, Master Hongguang, is a former monk, who learned the skills of vegetarian cooking in the Lingyanshan Temple in Suzhou, and Yufo Temple and Gongdelin Restaurant in Shanghai. Today, he has successfully combined the characteristics of both the Huaiyang and Chaozhou cuisine.

In addition to Buddhism, the teahouse has also applied the philosophies of

Taoism in tea-making and Confucianism in tea etiquette. Jingyi Teahouse has successfully interpreted the ancient Chinese tea culture. The aftertaste is one of greater self-knowledge and inner equilibrium.

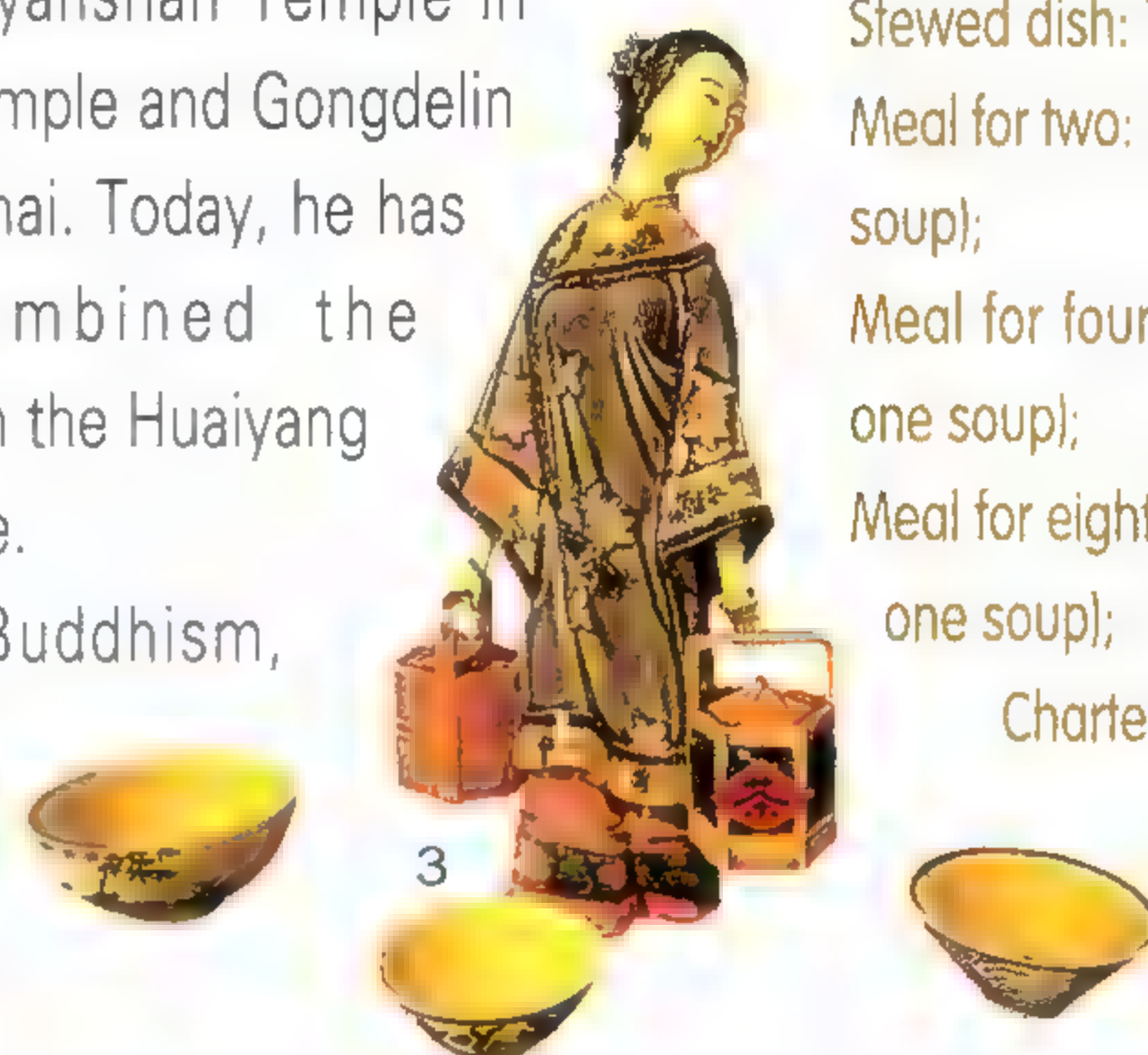


### Jingyi Teahouse

- ◆ **Add:** 7/F, Jintang General Building, 3038 Qingqing New Village, Bao'an Road South, Shenzhen;
- ◆ **Tel:** (755) 589 3265;
- ◆ **Open hours:** Teahouse, Pottery Workshop, Calligraphy & Painting Hall: 10:00-23:00; Live demonstrations of tea-making and ancient musical instruments: 21:00-23:30.

#### Tips

- ◆ Gongfu tea: 88-888 yuan per serve, with Tea King Jingyi being the most expensive; A cup of tea: 28-58 yuan, varieties including Buddhist tea, jasmine tea, green tea, black tea and Oolong tea; A pot of tea: 180-228 yuan.
- ◆ Vegetarian feast: One serve with dishes and rice: 18-48 yuan; Soup: 12-22 yuan; Stewed dish: 18-38 yuan; Meal for two: 88 yuan (four dishes and one soup); Meal for four: 128 yuan (five dishes and one soup); Meal for eight: 288 yuan (eight dishes and one soup); Chartered room: 228-380 yuan.







## Sanzhoutian

### *A Haven of Peace on the Wutong Mountain*

Sanzhoutian is a small village in Yantian District of Shenzhen. To ease the pronunciation, some call it "Sanmutian". One day, my friends and I decided to visit there, but were disappointed to learn that it is situated in the restricted district of Shenzhen, which means no one can enter is without an entry permit. Then one of my friends, who had visited the place before, contacted the owner of the Liao Family Restaurant in Sanzhoutian, who agreed to take us to the village.

Our car passed along the scenic western shores of Shenzhen. Mr. Liao was already there to assist our entry at the heavily guarded entrance to Wutong Mountain. Just as we were beginning to think that the silent trails in the mountain would never cease, a small village came into view at the end of the road. We had arrived!

From inside the garden of the Liao Family Restaurant, we took in the amazing scenery of Sanzhoutian. Treated by Liao, we spent some time relaxing, drinking tea and tasting snacks.

### *As Carefree as an Immortal*

The Hakka people from Fujian Province were the earliest inhabitants of

### *The Sanzhoutian Tea Garden*

Mr. Wu, the owner of the tea garden, is a 69-year-old retired high school principal. He first grafted Fenghuang tea onto the local varieties together with his daughter and son-in-law three years ago. Today, he has his own tea garden, teahouse and restaurant. Among the many new teas developed by Wu is one which was originally grafted from an old tree dating back 1,000 years and found at the peak of the Fenghuang Mountain in Chao'an, Guangdong Province.

There is a free tea-making demonstration and sampling here, as well as a wide range of tea to purchase. The affiliated restaurant offering dishes cooked with games caught from the mountain at an affordable price.

There are two possible routes to the tea garden. One is from Luohu to Yantian. From there you head towards Dameisha, turning into the mountain trail in Dashuikeng. The other route is via Longgang, Pingshan and Biling. Visitors would need to hire cars for either route since there are no public buses. It is advisable to inform the tea garden in advance, so that the owner can suggest the best way to reach the place and also help you get through the "restricted entry" procedure.

Tel: (755) 525 0525

Sanzhoutian. Later, the whole village moved to today's Meihua (Plum Blossom) Hill due to the construction of the Sanzhoutian Reservoir. In 1985, most villagers moved away, with only two families remaining. Nowadays, most villagers are from other provinces and live on growing tea and leaf mustard. Ever since a highway was constructed in



Yantian, there has been an increasing number of tourists visiting, bringing about the emergence of many restaurants.

Soon we left the restaurant and followed the mountain trails in search of local teahouses. The tealeaves may have just been picked, as the fields were very still, with not a soul in sight. The atmosphere put me in mind of "The Hundred-plant Garden" written by Lu Xun, a contemporary Chinese writer.

Eventually we reached a stretch of flatland on the hill slope, where the Golden Phoenix Tea Plantation owned by a Taiwan businessman was situated. A few workers were sunning the newly picked emerald green tea leaves. I





witnessed the tea-making process for the first time as soon as I entered the complex: packs of tea leaves had already been baked to a greenish brown, now pressed into small packs, then moulded into a ball shape. I was introduced to some of the terms of the tea-making process, too, for example, removing the fresh green colour, strong rubbing, soft

rubbing, and staving.

Next to the plantation is an open teahouse operated by a family from Chaozhou. The whole complex is built with bamboo and blends harmoniously with the landscape. When a gentle breeze blew through the groves, it felt like one of those poetic scenes usually seen in Song-dynasty paintings, with figures sipping tea

### *The Making of Chaozhou Fenghuang Tea*

Fenghuang tea is noted for its fragrance, sweetness and variety of flavours. An experienced tea farmer taught me how to make this tea. He reminded me that the tealeaf should only be collected at the moment that the morning mist has just dispersed and when the sun is not too strong. We mainly pick three young leaves out of four each time, so that the plant is able to keep growing. Then the fresh tealeaves are placed in a big bamboo-made shallow basket, and exposed to sunlight just before sunset. He stressed that the leaves should not be put directly under sunlight, or else they will carry "the odour of the sun".

The key process is tumbling the tea, by doing it with both hands from the sides of the basket. The process should be carried out every two hours during the night until daybreak. It helps disperse other scents from the tealeaves.



The tea is baked over a charcoal fire on the following day. You must be very careful about the temperature to avoid the tea being over-cooked. Afterwards, rub the tealeaves between your hands and let them curl. When this is done, spray ashes on the fire, leaving the leaves to dry in the warm pot. The dried tealeaves are ready to make tea.

*by Chen Junlun*

and playing chess. Even if it were water that I was drinking under these same circumstances, I would still feel as carefree as an immortal.

### *A Moment for Ever*

When I drank the warm amber brew, the essence of the cosmos seemed to be concentrated in the tea. In a moment of exhilaration, one of my friends composed his line, "Engulf me, mountains and waters of Sanzhoutian!" Though not a celebrated poem, it reflected our feelings aptly.

Placed in front of us were two purple-clay teapots, one of which contained a local tea, the other a bitter gourd tea. We ate some snacks as we sipped the teas. This was the first time I had tried bitter gourd tea. The owner told us that it was a home brew and not normally available at the market.

At sunset, the temperature dropped and a thin layer of mist appeared on the mountain. Male villagers collected the dried leaf mustard on bamboo pipes, and the women who had been picking tea made their way home.

When we returned to the Liao Family Restaurant, our host had already prepared a Hakka meal for us. Whatever the method used to cook the food, the pumpkin, sweet potato, taro, fish, chicken and duck all tasted surprisingly fresh and sweet to me.

In a world full of grey buildings and neon lights, I will always remember the Sanzhoutian Tea Garden nestled at the back of the tranquil Wutong Mountain, where I found a sense of harmony between man and nature.

*Translated by Kristy Wong*

1. Mr. Wu, a retired principal from Chaozhou, helps his daughter manage the teahouse. (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. Amber yellow and delicately fragrant, Fenghuang tea is a favourite of committed tea buffs. (by Shi Baoxiu)



# Unforgettable Local Delicacies



Photo & article by Maozi

## Anhui "Laba" Tofu

After visiting Mount Huangshan in Anhui Province, I stayed more days at the foot of the mountain in Yixian County, where the poetic rural life was described as a haven of peace by Tao Yuanming (365-427), a celebrated scholar and writer. In Xidi village, I was captivated by those residential houses built in the Ming and Qing dynasties. Meanwhile, I noticed that the roadside stalls were selling an interesting food item: laba tofu (a sort of preserved bean-curd made in the twelfth lunar month).

The history of tofu in China can be traced back several thousand years. Dishes made of tofu are found in every sphere from royal cuisine to common family meals. It is also increasingly recommended by modern health-conscious folk. And the laba tofu from Anhui is highly unique. Round in shape and slightly salty, it is yellowish-orange in colour, with a knot in the middle resembling a navel.

Yixian County was a remote area during the Ming-Qing period. At that time, all the locals would take along laba tofu when they had to leave their villages for various reasons, such as seeking work in the city, attending imperial examinations in Beijing, doing business or visiting far-away associates. Ancestors of the wealthy families in the county, such as the Taos, Hus and Wangs, all had such experiences. Laba tofu has certainly played an important role in the development of this area.

Dehydrated by the winter wind and salted, the food can be kept for a long time, and is sold at a very affordable price: 15 yuan for two big pieces. I brought two back to Hong Kong and made a delicious dish with it together with Chinese chives and shredded pork. Accompanied by a cup of Wuliangye spirit, this mouthwatering dish is a gift to life.

Article by Xiao Yun

## Guangzhou Ground-rice Rolls

Wherever you are in Guangzhou, there are tiny and busy eateries to be found. All the queues are waiting to buy a special treat: ground-rice rolls. Experienced cooks first place a piece of white cloth on the liquid ground-rice, then immediately flatten the cloth on a steamer and cover with a lid. After a while, they remove the lid and add ingredients such as vegetables, beef, pig's liver sausages, pork or shrimps according to the customer's preference.

Within a few minutes, the ground-rice rolls are ready and served with lettuce. No wonder there are always old and new customers of all ages lining up for this wonderful snack.

Article by Liang Juqiao

## Xinjiang Roast Lamb

In choosing a favourite local food, my pick would definitely be the Xinjiang roast lamb. My mother always cooks mutton dishes for me in winter since the meat is good for my cold-sensitive stomach, but the smell of the meat is so strong that I do not always enjoy it. However, when I tasted the local roast lamb in Urümqi, the capital city of Xinjiang, I found the meat as delicious as the roasted Peking Duck or Guangzhou's roast suckling pig.

Roast lamb is a compulsory dish at every Xinjiang feast. At first sight, it can be quite shocking. In a Xinjiang restaurant, for example, the whole roast lamb is placed on a serving trolley, its head tied with a red ribbon and its mouth bearing a small piece of celery, as if a live lamb were eating grass on a pasture. However, its golden-yellow skin, appetising smell and artistic appearance never fail to tempt you.

The mutton in Xinjiang is comparatively tastier than that produced anywhere else, as the lambs are fed in a natural environment. The barbecued mutton is the most popular and characteristic food of the Uygurs. Meat cut from a lamb leg is stringed and roasted on the fire, while seasonings such as salt, chili powder and pepper are added. It reminds me of the roasted meat I tasted in the Middle East and the satay dishes of Southeast Asia. Visiting Xinjiang without sampling these dishes is like leaving Treasure Island empty-handed — you have really missed out!

## Contributions Solicited

We are grateful for the warm response from readers who have sent their contributions. Readers are welcome to share their various travel experiences and please write 600-800 words for each piece. A full-length story of 1,000-1,500 words with photos may be published in our "Traveller's Corner".

In order to receive your payment and a copy of the magazine in which your contribution is published, please don't forget to include your address.

Please mail your stories to: English Editorial Department, Hong Kong China Tourism Press, 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or send it through E-mail: [edit-e@hkctp.com.hk](mailto:edit-e@hkctp.com.hk).





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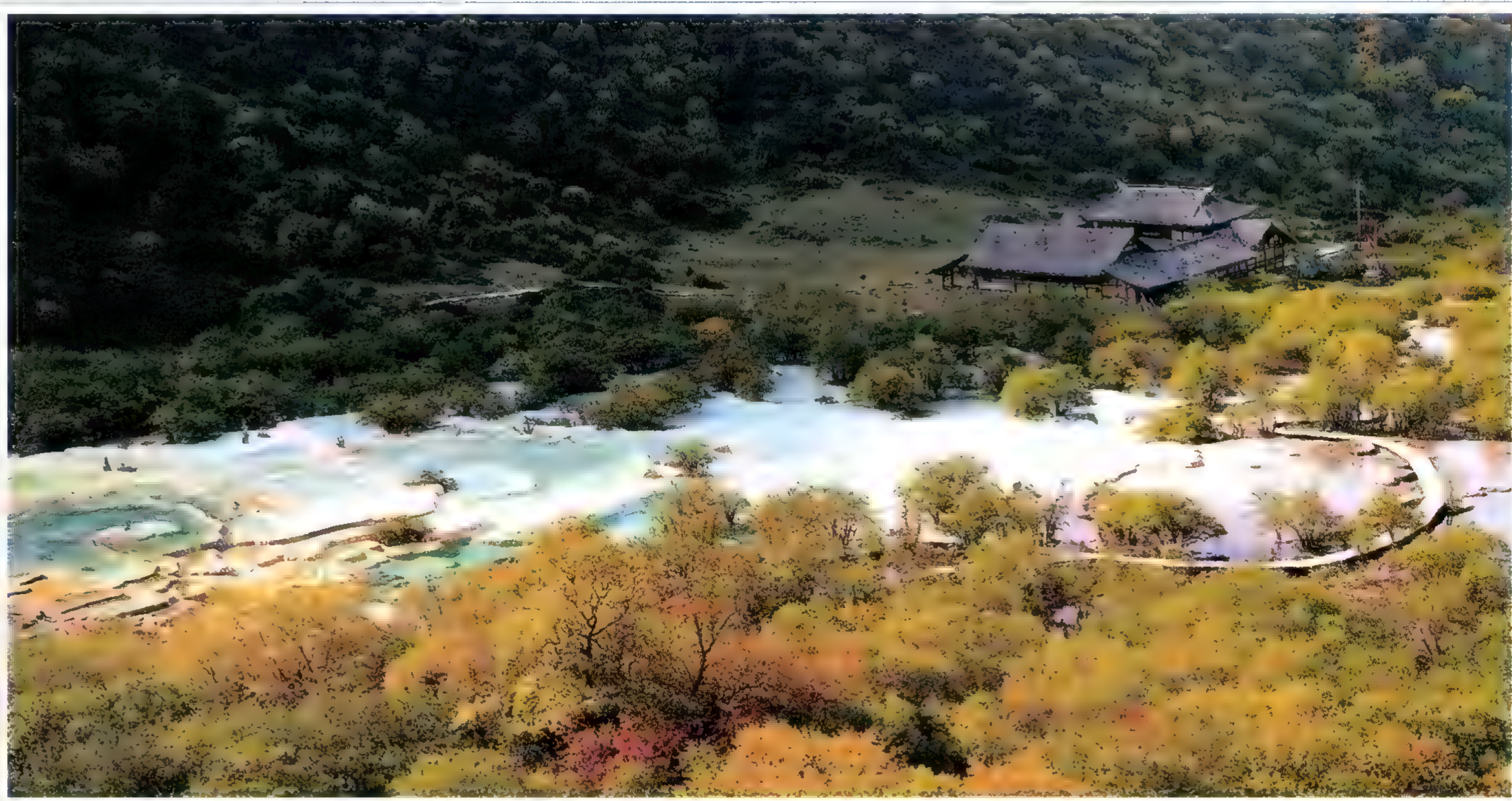
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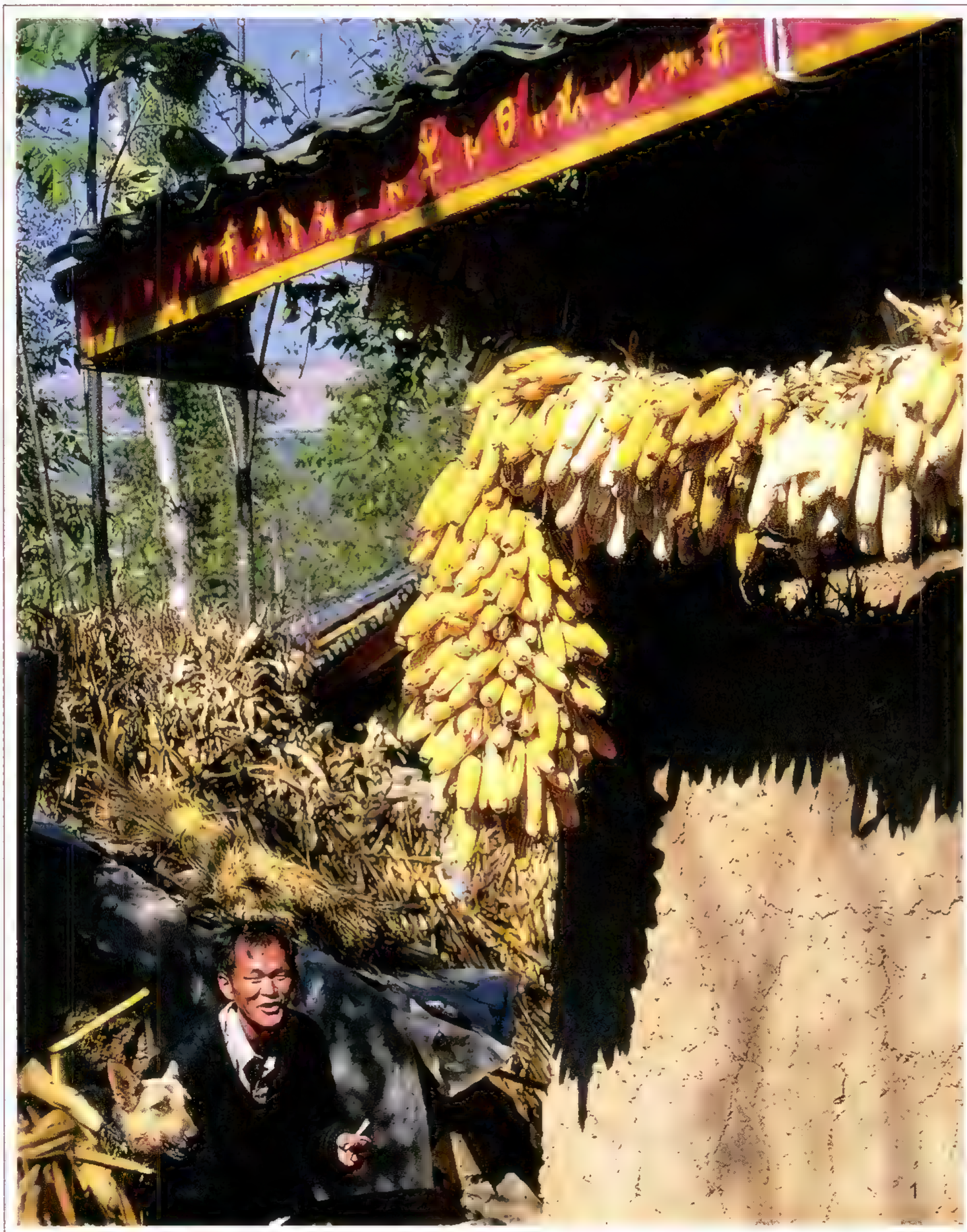
- To be a real do-it-yourself traveller, our correspondent, alone with her knapsack, explored the **northwestern Sichuan Province**, passing scenic spots such as Jiuzhaigou (Nine-village Valley) and Huanglong National Park, and revelling in the immensity of Mother Nature. For city drifters who follow a principle of “working hard and playing hard”, the latter principle would undoubtedly be fulfilled by a trip such as this. What our reporter also sought to discover, though, was the key to the vibrant lifestyle enjoyed by the simple and sincere local Tibetans. Our next “Feature Story” shares some of her discoveries.
- Human beings are always curious about the origin of things, but not many will go to the lengths our mountaineering team and cameramen did in their search for the **source of the Kanas Lake** in northern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. On the way, they trekked through primeval forests, striking water bodies, soul-stirring glaciers and freezing snow-capped

mountains. At long last they were rewarded: stunning pictures, exciting moments to recall, and of course, the source of the lake. Where is it? What does it look like? We hope you’ll join us on this eight-day trip.

- Xi’an, capital city in Central China’s Shaanxi Province, is worthy of the title, “Open Museum”. Apart from the Qin Shihuang Mausoleum, there is in fact a group of lesser known imperial tombs in this ancient city — the **Thirteen Tombs of the Ming Dynasty**. Until recently, the relics there have not been treated at all seriously by the locals: naive children played on the stone carvings decorating the tombs while their parents hung freshly washed clothes to dry on equally priceless treasures. Today, however, people are becoming increasingly aware of the need to protect as well as rebuild their vital heritage. Perhaps some of our readers will develop an interest in this new sport after reading the article in our coming issue.



WHEN I LEARNED THERE WAS A BUS CONNECTION BETWEEN ZHAOTONG CITY IN YUNNAN PROVINCE AND XICHANG IN SICHUAN PROVINCE, I WAS GREATLY RELIEVED THAT WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO TAKE THREE FLIGHTS VIA KUNMING AND CHENGDU TO GET THERE. XICHANG IS THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE LIANGSHAN YI AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE IN SOUTHERN SICHUAN. FROM HERE BUSES GO TO ALL THE YI COMMUNITIES. OUR ULTIMATE DESTINATION WAS ZHAOJUE, THE REAL HEARTLAND OF THE NUOSU PEOPLE, A BRANCH OF THE YI ETHNIC GROUP.



# A DAY WITH THE YI PEOPLE IN ZHAOJUE

Photos & article by Ma Li

Some locals led us to a nearby *zhadaisuo* (reception house), but one of our small group of three foreigners spotted the local government *zhadaisuo* across the street and went over to investigate. Based on her report we took our gear across and checked in there. The *zhadaisuo* was located inside a compound, and after exploring the grounds we came to the conclusion that this must have been the former headquarters for a foreign mission that

had included a hospital, church, and dormitory. The locals later confirmed our hunch! Today, the church serves as a meeting hall and the hospital is used as a dormitory. At the centre of the compound is a peaceful patch of lawn, where, during the day, many Nuosu people can be found taking naps. In the evening the compound comes alive, with many locals sitting in small groups on the lawn, eating, drinking and generally enjoying themselves.





#### HAVING LUNCH WITH THE LOCAL WOMEN

The town itself is rather small and easily managed on foot. The local people are helpful and friendly, especially if you thank them in Nuosu — “ka sha sha!” We were invited to join a group of women having their lunch. They readily made room for us on the small wooden benches and ordered a few more dishes, and we soon became like old friends! Some young girls wearing traditional dress suddenly appeared. We darted up from the table and ran after them. We were given permission to take their photos. They were dressed in the traditional Yi style: a long pleated skirt, blouse, and velveteen waistcoat. Attached to their long hair is a braided hairpiece. Appliqued pieces of felt wool are layered on top of the head, with the braid crossed over the top and fixed to hold the headdress in place.

Potatoes are the staple diet of the Yi people here; they are usually roasted and served with a kind of chili sauce. Another staple is bread made from buckwheat flour. Called *baba*, the bread is made into rounds and steamed. After buying traditional handicrafts from a small shop, we were invited by the shopkeeper to have *baba* in her home. She put some buckwheat flour into a large bowl, added water, kneaded it, and formed it into small rounds, which she steamed for about an hour. And the taste? Well, I’d add a dash of salt to the dough! It is quite palatable when dipped into

sour vegetable soup, another Nuosu dish.

#### A WEDDING IN PROGRESS

All roads in and out of Zhaojue lead to Nuosu villages. We took the opposite direction from the main bus routes, so as to explore new territory and reach one of the nearby villages. Before we had even left the town centre, I noticed an animated group of Nuosu nearby. I pulled out my camera, expecting to see a fight break out. Instead I found a wedding in progress! The noise was over who was going to carry the bride!

In a Nuosu wedding in these parts, the bride must ride piggyback all the way to the bridegroom’s village, where the celebration is to take place. When she is put down, she must be sure to stand on a piece of cloth and not directly on the ground. One of our group kept running ahead of the wedding jogger, who in turn seemed to deliberately speed up! It wasn’t long before we were invited to attend the wedding. The small dirt pathway wound towards a village, first crossing a stream and then a vegetable patch. Those walking towards the wedding looked positively regal in their long dark blue or off-white wool capes edged with a long fringe.

1. After the harvest, every house is decorated with corn hanging up to dry.
2. The bride gets a new hairstyle.
3. Back view of the traditional Yi headdress.
4. Two young men playing the game “Snatching the Scarf” at the wedding.





It seemed that the entire village was there to greet the bride! A small hut was set up and the bride, her face covered the entire time with a large headscarf, sat in the corner while a few men drank, ate and exchanged gifts. Suddenly the bride was "set upon" by girls who tried to pull off her headscarf! One of the girls had her own headscarf pulled off in the scuffle by a young man, who promptly put it on his own head. Peals of laughter broke out in the crowd. It was a game that the young people play at weddings. Perhaps the guy in the scarf will be the next groom? A meal was served to all the men in attendance, and being foreigners, we women were included. Using a bed of straw as a serving platter, one of the men offered us big chunks of fatty pork, complete with the black hair of the pig still attached, and some *baba*.

The young bridal attendants combed out the bride's hair and restyled it in the customary style for married women. Under cover of her long cape she was helped into new clothes for the married woman — a new waistcoat and skirt — and her headscarf was wrapped on top of her head. Shortly thereafter she and her bridal party ran away, and would only return in the evening to continue the festivities. This seemed an appropriate moment for us to make our exit.

#### A COLOURFUL CLOSURE

Just before leaving the village I saw some letters painted on the trim of a house and a closer look revealed that it was written in the Nuosu script. It was the end of the main harvest season (November), and the houses were laden with bundles of corn hanging from the rafters.

About one hour by bus from Zhaojue, on the main road to Xichang, there is a village that hosts a market day, and we just happened to be passing through on that day. What a colourful closure to our stay in Zhaojue! The Yi people from all around had come to buy and sell. There was even a livestock market on the hillside. A variety of traditional tunics and waistcoats were represented, so it was an excellent opportunity to view the many different clothing styles of the Xichang-Zhaojue region. From the bus window we shouted the farewell greeting "eh zeh zeh ni lo" and after a startled look came their reply, framed in smiles, "eh zeh zeh buh!"



1. *Baba* is the staple food of the Yi people in Zhaojue.
2. Young girls in Zhaojue dress up for us.







# Readership Survey

*China Tourism* always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
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## What are your suggestions for improvement?

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

\*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.



# Crawling Out of Dulongjiang in Tears

Photos by Nan Lingkun Article by Huniu

A good friend of mine is a Drung man. He used to give graphic accounts of the creatures, mountain gods, tattooed faces and the way an ox is slaughtered in the area inhabited by the Drung people. I had heard little of these things before. Since I had nothing in particular to do, I decided to go with him on a trip from Kunming to Liuku and then to Gongshan, where we hired a porter and bought food and other items we needed for camping in the wilderness for three days. It was a fine day with a gentle breeze when we set out for Dulongjiang, the only township in Yunnan Province not yet connected by a highway.

## Alarm at Midnight

The gully was so deep that all I could see was a narrow strip of blue sky. The mountains were heavy with the smell of baked grass. Occasionally, I could hear the distant bells of a horse caravan, which wouldn't pass by until a long time later. I had been living in the city too long, and was so engrossed in the natural scenery along the way that I didn't utter a word from sunrise to sunset. By the time we passed the first lodging place, it was already dark. We erected the tents on a dry riverbed. The porter gathered firewood and set up a



fire. A meal was cooked over it in almost no time. After eating my fill, I rested by the fire and waited eagerly for the water to heat so that I could wash away the fatigue of the day.

It was wet and cold at night. As I lay in the tent, lightning began to flash in the sky. I prayed that it wouldn't rain. The

trees in the moonlight cast their swaying shadows on the tent. As I closed my heavy-lidded eyes, the wind in the gully began to blow quite forcefully, repeatedly jolting me out of my half sleep. The air seemed to have become congealed. The shadow of a bear's head suddenly came into my sight. Petrified, I instinctively held my breath for a minute until the bear's head disappeared. Weak and limp, I kept my watchful eyes open until daybreak. When morning finally came, we found that the pot had been overturned and the cooked rice in it scattered everywhere. Obviously we had had some unknown visitor.

## The Path Became More Rugged

We packed up and were on our way again. When we reached the mountain pass, I found money and other items held down by pieces of rock everywhere and thought I had fallen into a fortune. But my Drung friend broke my dream of wealth. He also put some money under a rock and told me to pray with him. I refused and firmly argued that there should be freedom in religious belief. My Drung friend blamed me when we went down the mountain, saying that I had offended the mountain god and was punished for it.

The path on the mountain was very unusual. Although the path ahead was in sight, you had to zigzag for a long time before reaching it. We walked in faltering steps as fast as we could but still did not reach our destination in time. My legs swollen and painful and my boots torn, I made my way slowly forward in the gully overgrown with grass. Constantly on guard against snakes and regularly pricked by the barbs of unknown plants, I reached a point where I could hardly go any further. I missed my home and mother. I collapsed into tears.

My exhausted Drung friend tried every means to encourage me to keep going, but it was useless. Just when he was at the end of his tether, firelight suddenly appeared on the opposite mountain, bright and massive. "Hey, lady, hold on. We'll be saved when we reach the opposite mountain. It's a place for caravans to stop for the night," my experienced Drung friend reassured me. Still in tears, I had no choice but to make every effort to half crawl towards the bonfire.





### Generous Men of the Caravan


The caravan was composed of three horse grooms. Without uttering a word of greeting, I collapsed by the bonfire unceremoniously. My utterly exhausted Drung friend said something in whispers to the caravan men, who nodded their heads sympathetically and agreed to allow me to stay with them. They spread out a blanket on the ground so that I could lie down. My friend said to me that he was going down the mountain to get help. I fell asleep soon. While I was still in a fitful dream, the caravan men woke me up for supper. At this moment, the porter had climbed up the mountain and brought me a blanket and a letter of apology from my Drung friend, saying that he was unable to fetch me back. That meant he had left me to the caravan men.

Two other travellers joined the caravan, so there were six of us for supper. The hospitable caravan men put three scoops of rice and four scoops of potatoes on a blackened pot lid and handed it to me. Embarrassed by the generous helping, I said, "I usually eat only one scoop of rice." While I was saying so, however, I took over the lid without standing on ceremony, began to stuff the food into my mouth at record-breaking speed and soon finished all the rice and potatoes. When I began to huddle into the blanket, one of the caravan men handed me another blanket of indistinguishable colour, dirty and smelly. Instead of recoiling from it, I wrapped it tightly around my

shivering body.

After crossing the Gongshan Mountain, the scenery changed. I had heard that rainstorms raged almost every night in the mountain. But I was lucky. The sky was clear. There was only the sound of the wind blowing through the trees. I then heard what seemed to be the voice of a woman calling someone from a long distance away. The voice became tense at one time and relaxed at another. When I asked the caravan men where the voice came from, they said unanimously, "It's a ghost." True or false, what they said scared me. I quickly covered my head with the smelly blanket, and hoped that both ghost and mosquitoes would leave me alone.

### Coming Down the Mountain

When I woke, it was already dawn. The air was wet and cold, and the mountains were shrouded in mist. The porter who had already lit a fire handed me a cup of hot tea to dispel the cold. I bid farewell to the caravan men and went off with the porter on my weak legs. Before leaving, I gave the caravan men my water can and a brand-new waterproof sheet to the porter. Halfway down the mountain, I met some Drung people who had come to fetch me. I rushed over and unceremoniously draped the whole weight of my body over the two of them and let them drag me down the mountain. 



Both men and women of the Drung people cover themselves with a piece of striped linen.

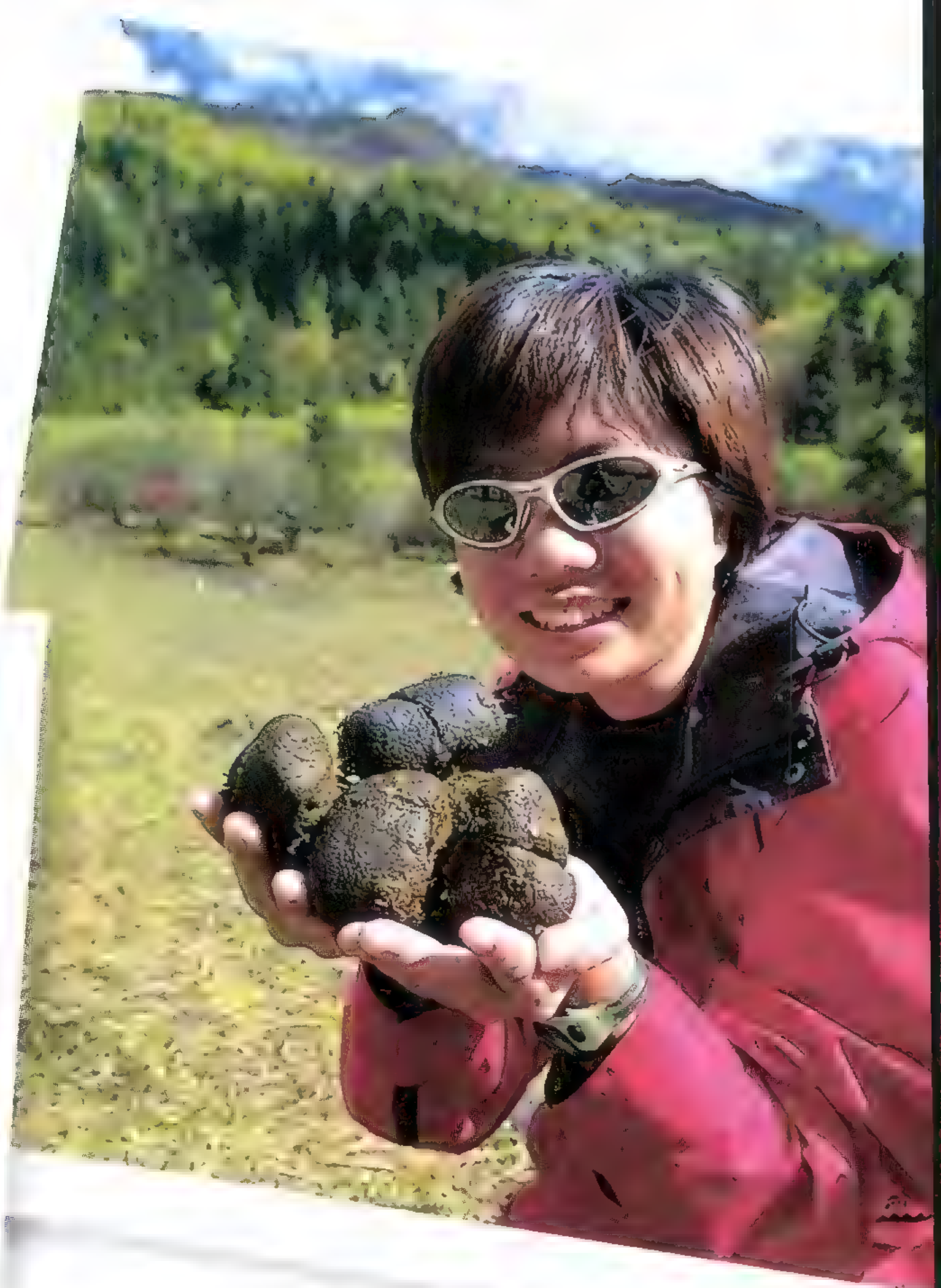
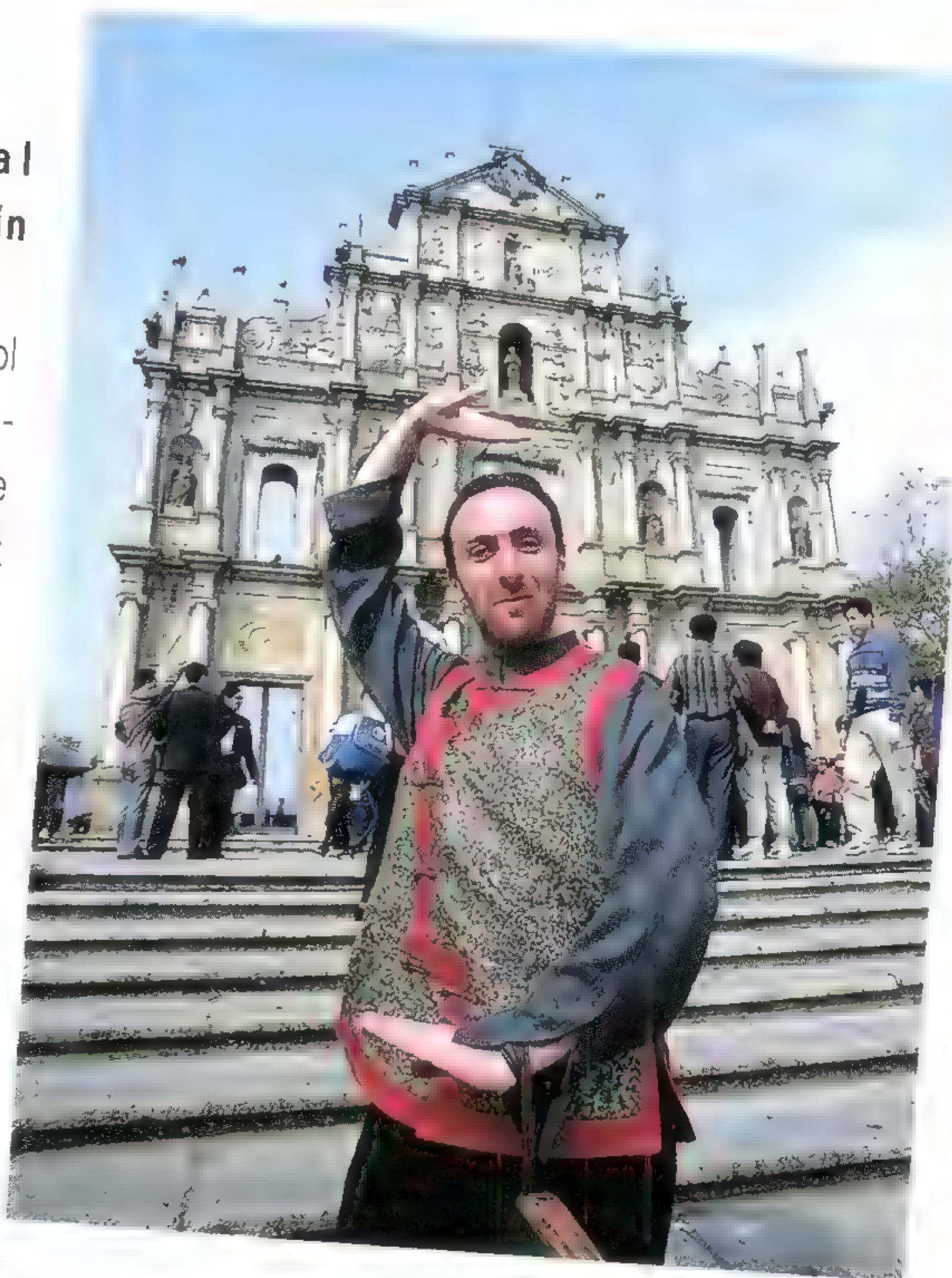


# Outdoor Pursuits

Article by Huang Yanhong

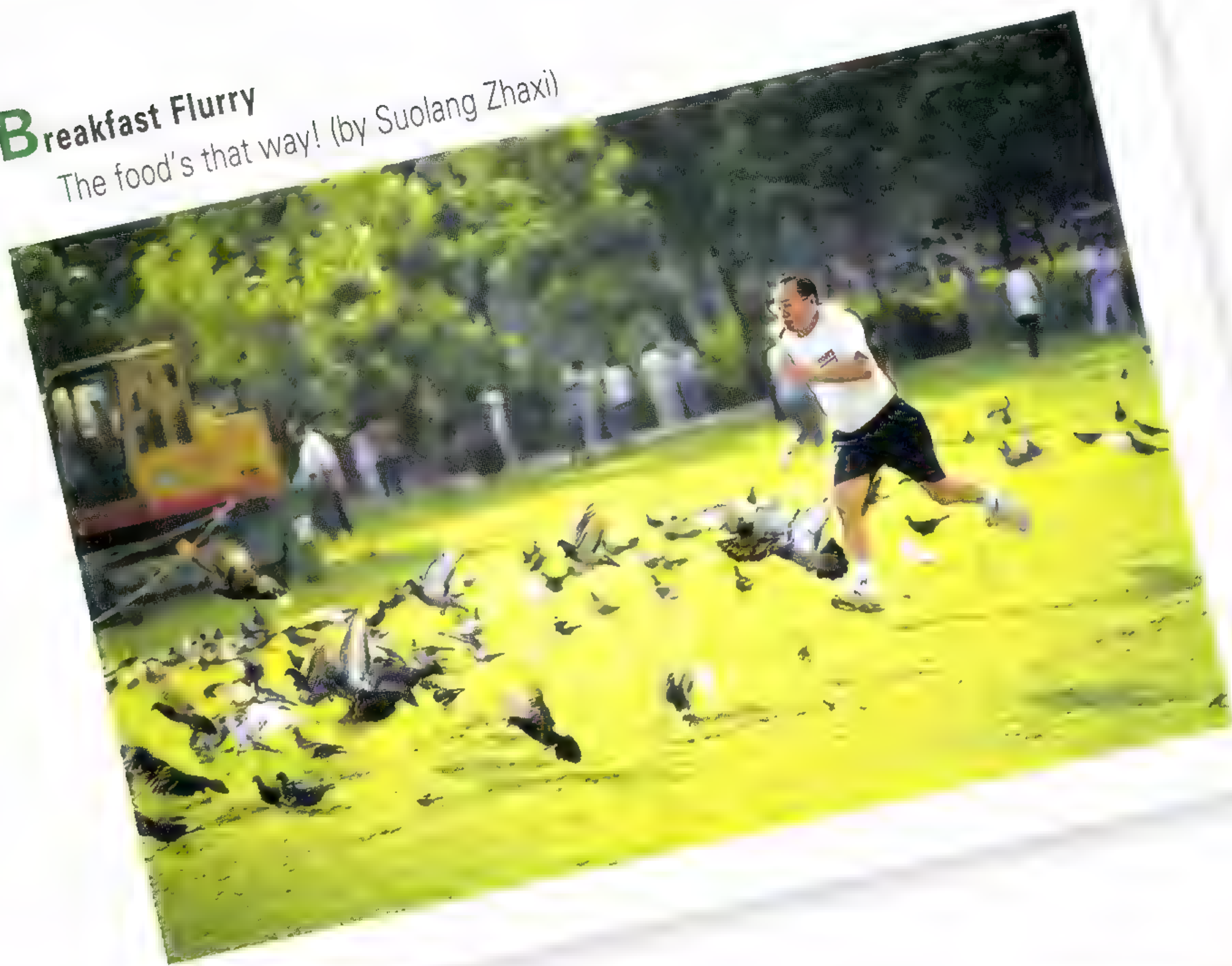
## Martial Arts King in Macao

In this cool Chinese gear - and if I go like this — do I look like Bruce Lee or Jacky Chan, or any ancient hero in the Chinese kungfu movies? (by Huang Yanhong)



## Breakfast Flurry

The food's that way! (by Suolang Zhaxi)





**Well Dung!**  
And that goes  
for this brave  
woman, the  
photographer and  
the horse! (by  
Changcheng)



**It's Been a Long Day!**  
Just one little win and I can go home to bed! (by Dai Xu)



**The Great Pretender**

Given the right outfit, we might not have noticed this reader among the group of arhat statues located in Nanshan, Hainan Island. (by Mao Tai)



**Shall We?**  
Is this man  
practising his  
daily Taiji  
movements, or  
just trying to  
imitate the  
dancers on the  
banners? (by  
Hong Lan)



# Braving a Visit to the Great Wall at Simatai

Photo by Qu Jianfeng Article by Wang Binxi

After the bus ran eastward for about two hours from its starting point at Beijing's Dongzhimen Long-distance Bus Station, we reached the Great Wall at Simatai in Gubeikou, a place of strategic significance in history. Perhaps because there were not many visitors, we saw very few peddlers hawking their wares there. What we did see, however, were rural women carrying a bamboo basket laden with mineral water and refreshments, trailing every four or five visitors. We, too, were being followed by one of them. I approached the woman peddler and told her we would not need anything from her. She just dropped me a gentle smile by way of answer. But very soon the facts proved her shrewdness.

By the time we got to the ninth watchtower on the Great Wall, my bag was light. Three bottles, each containing 1.5 litres of mineral water, were all empty. Just at this moment the woman we had met before walked up to me, a solicitous smile on her face. It was only natural then that she and I made a very quick deal. She told us that the name of this section of the Great Wall, Simatai, meant "The Dead-Horse Terrace", because a white battle horse of Qi Jiguang, a general of the Ming Dynasty, was buried beneath one of the watchtowers. But in comparison, I prefer a different claim that Simatai got its name because the building of this section of the Great Wall was supervised by a *sima*, the ancient title for an officer under the general. The woman's story, however, is more legendary.

The section of the Great Wall starting from the seventh watchtower is no more than a narrow broken stone road that lies between watchtowers on the ridge of a mountain. When I saw the famous Sky Ladder from a lookout hole at the 13th watchtower, I exclaimed, "It's really a ladder leading to the sky!" On a 40 metre-high sheer cliff are the remnants of a grey-brick wall at an angle of 85 degrees. It is only the crevices and projecting rocks on it that renders it a "ladder".

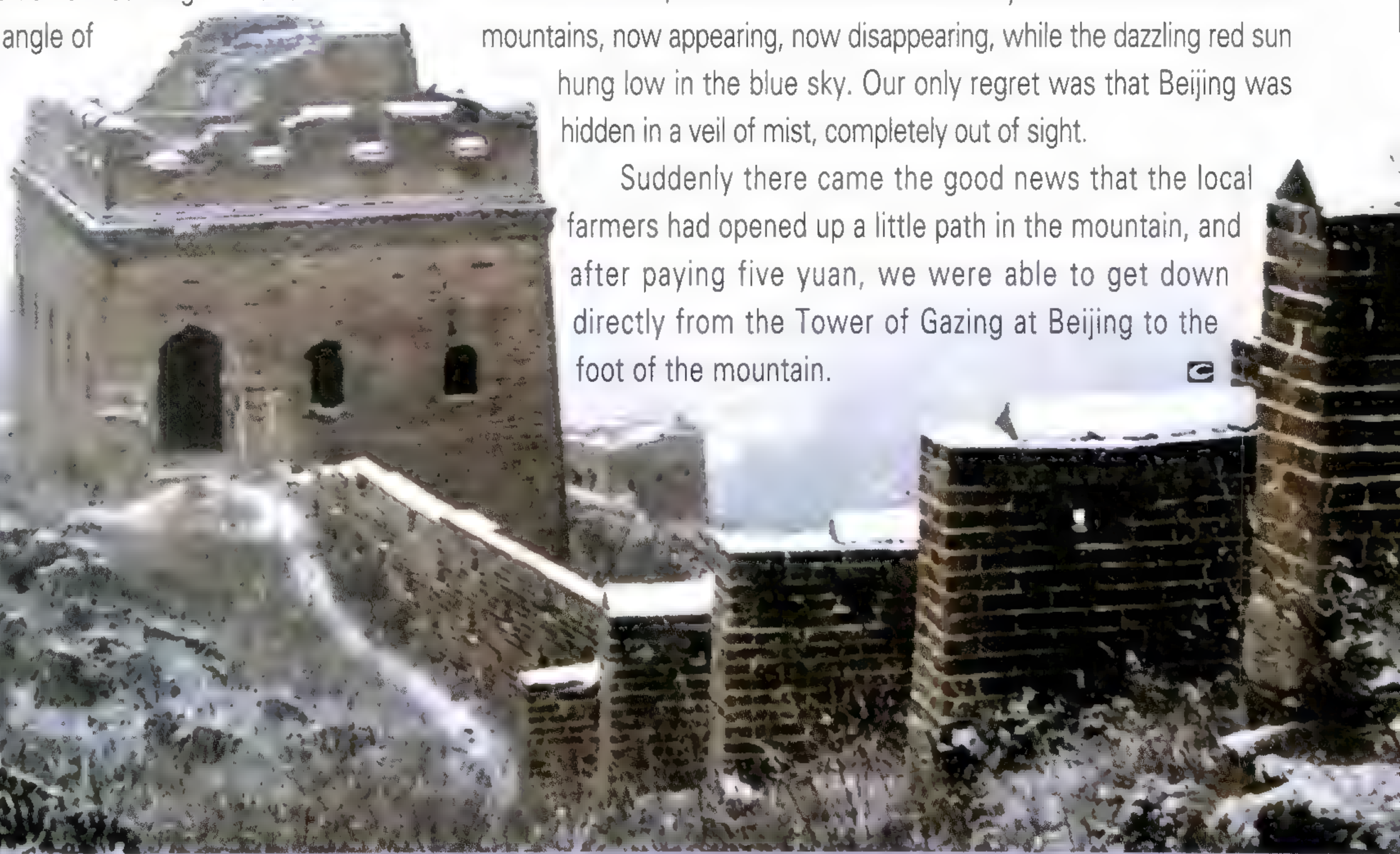
Mostly, tourists stop at this point when they come to visit Simatai, because it is simply too dangerous to climb such a steep

wall without the necessary equipment. Moreover, following the dangerous steep wall, there is still the 100-metre long Sky Bridge to negotiate. As we were really in the mood for sightseeing at the time, none of us, including the two young women, wanted to turn back. So after replenishing our bag with drinking water and refreshments, we surveyed the way carefully before we started to climb. With the two ladies in the middle, the four of us took the plunge one after the other. To be honest, the Sky Ladder was not too difficult for us to ascend, because there were many firm footholds on it. The only point to remember is: never turn round and look down!

We rested at a little flat platform for a short while before continuing on our way. The Sky Bridge lay just ahead. As a matter of fact, the Sky Bridge is a 100-metre long section of wall. As most of the construction at this section of the wall has collapsed, only the middle structure built with two rows of grey bricks remains. The wall is only one foot wide, with dizzy steep precipices on either side. They say that accidents take place here every year. There are three different ways to cross the Sky Bridge: walk over slowly facing straight ahead; edge over with sideways steps or sit astride the wall inching your way forward, which was the way we adopted. Fortunately all of us wore jeans, but still we suffered a lot in the buttocks and ruined our trousers.

After crossing the Sky Bridge, we got to the highest point of the Great Wall at Simatai — the Wangjing (Gazing at Beijing) Tower. It was an unforgettable building, with dark moss huddling up furtively in the shady corners at the foot of the broken parapets. The reservoir at the foot of the mountain looked like a glorious green mirror with the sunshine reflected in it. Farther ahead, the Great Wall wound its way forward into the distant mountains, now appearing, now disappearing, while the dazzling red sun hung low in the blue sky. Our only regret was that Beijing was hidden in a veil of mist, completely out of sight.

Suddenly there came the good news that the local farmers had opened up a little path in the mountain, and after paying five yuan, we were able to get down directly from the Tower of Gazing at Beijing to the foot of the mountain.







# The Wind and Clouds of the Grand Canyon

*Photos & article by Liang Zhiqiang*

**T**he Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona in the United States draws thousands of tourists every year. It has been known as one of the seven marvellous natural phenomena in the world.

Even before I visited it in person, I became familiar with its general features. In the books borrowed from the library, I enjoyed the beautiful snow scenes in deep winter, the hazy sunrise and sunset, the tenacious pines, cypresses and firs, and the supercilious wild animals... all these things aroused my interest in touring the Grand Canyon.

One summer I had my wish fulfilled at last, as I drove a rented car to the busy viewing place at the southern bank of the canyon. In the hot summer tourist season, visitors came one group after another in large buses. It was very difficult for me to find a place to park my car. The souvenir shops, coffee shops and the openings by the steel railings were all crowded with people. The lively scene formed a sharp contrast to the deep, severe Grand Canyon. I looked into the valley from the edge of the cliff and gazed at this natural spectacle for a long time but couldn't find the familiar impression I had got from the books.

It was sunshine when I started off in the morning, but when I arrived after a drive of less than two hours, the sky was overcast. The Grand Canyon covered by dark clouds was not as magnificent as I had imagined. Although the rays of the sun penetrated the clouds and shone into the valley occasionally, the scene was spotted and disorderly. I felt really disappointed with its appearance and the atmosphere. But it was still worse when, a moment later, the sun was completely enveloped by

thick dark clouds. A rainstorm was on the way, so I went into a small building at the edge of the cliff to take a rest. Sure enough, it soon began to rain heavily and people ran helter-skelter for shelter as if they were playing a collective game, creating a wonderful scene.

Carrying a box of photographic equipment in my arms, I huddled into a corner not knowing what to do, when the hordes standing in the big French window suddenly became jubilant. As I squeezed my way over to see what was happening, I became excited too. In the near distance a beam of sunlight came down, and two rainbows appeared over a huge rock. With the change of the sunrays cast down between the sheets of gathered clouds, the two rainbows disappeared and then appeared again. Everybody, both adults and children, were enthralled with the scene. In the far distance the wind was still blowing and the rain kept pouring down. The lonely pine trees stood towering by the cliff, but the peaks and huge rocks that lay in the valley formed a picture drifting along in the rain and mist, disappearing then reappearing. It was just like the description in a line of an ancient poem: "In the hazy mountains even the rain becomes marvellous."

When the rain subsided, I immediately took up my photographic gear and hurried to the car park to drive my car to where I might capture the moving scene. The big storm had sent most of the tourists away, so it was easier for me to find my car. By now the Grand Canyon was unfolding all its majesty in the subsiding rain, just as well as on any fine day. Its unusually magnificent appearance took on a new aspect in the wind and rain, which came as a pleasant surprise. I was thrilled to have come to the Grand Canyon in the wind and rain and enjoyed an aspect rarely seen by others.

*Translated by Xiong Zhenru*



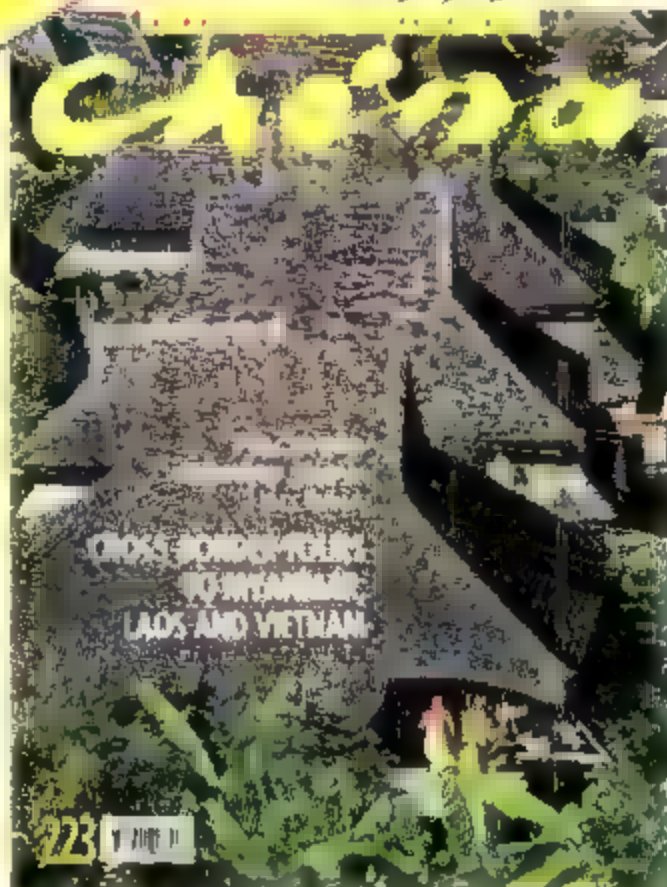


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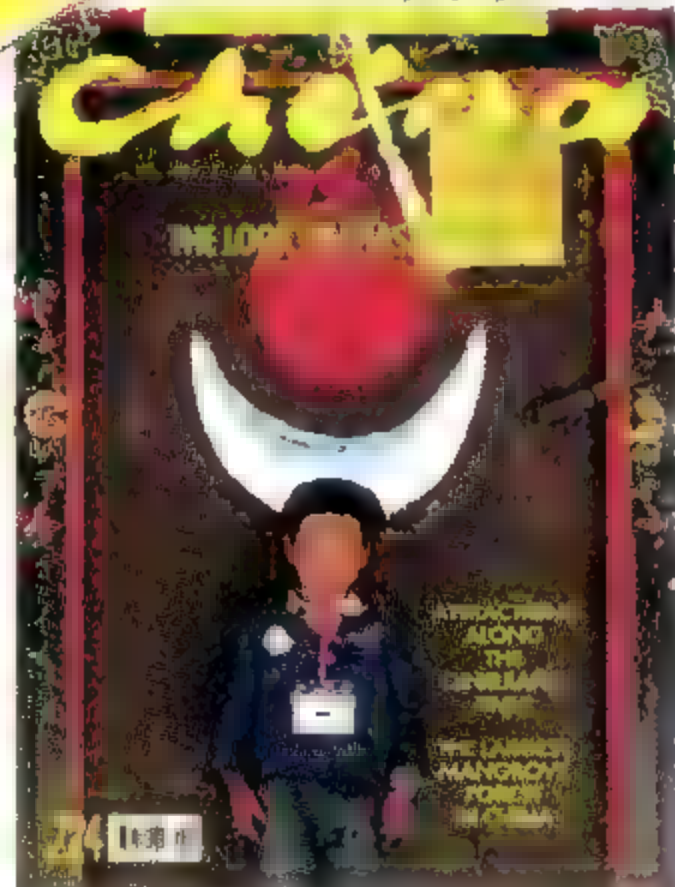
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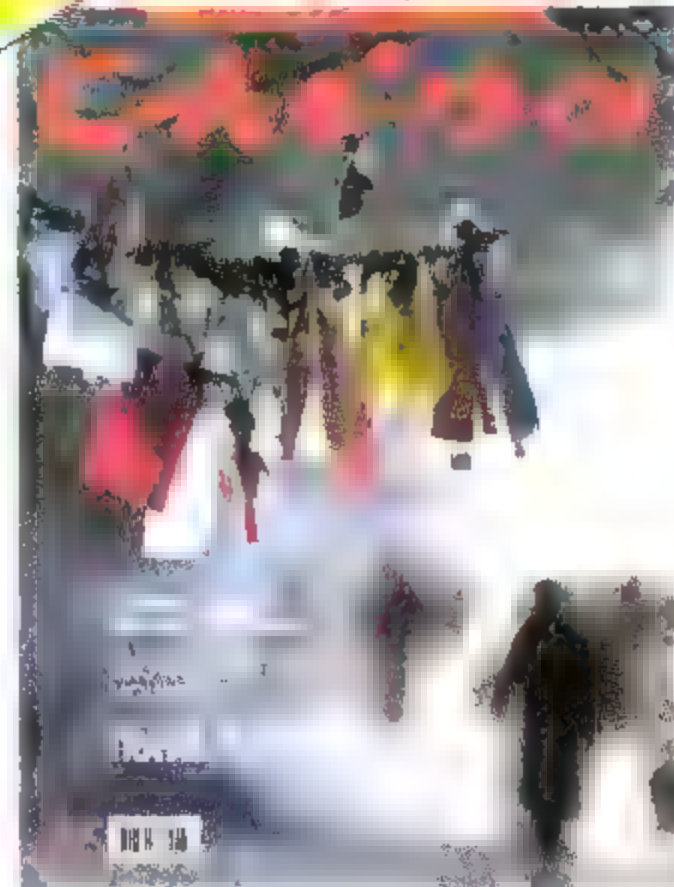
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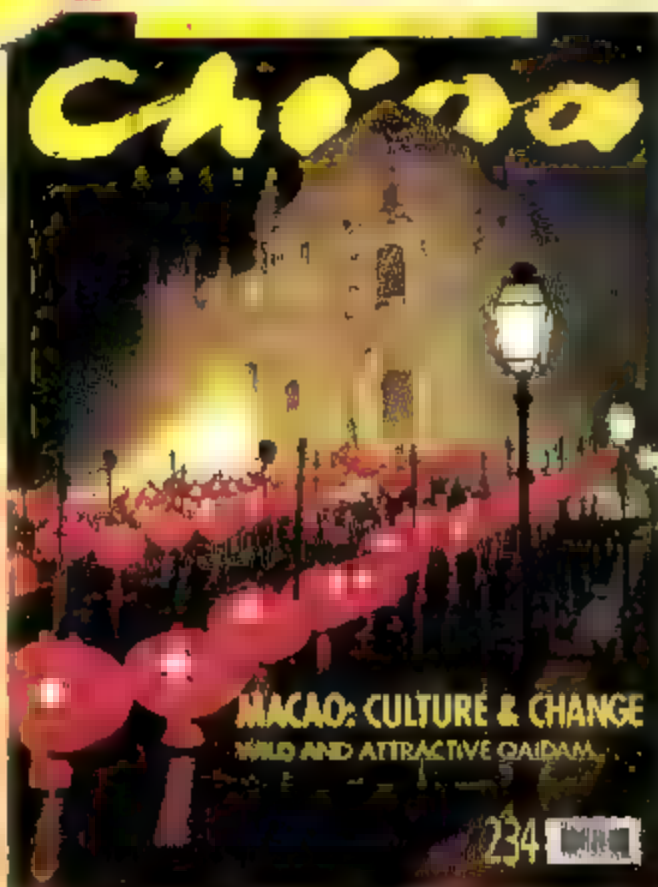
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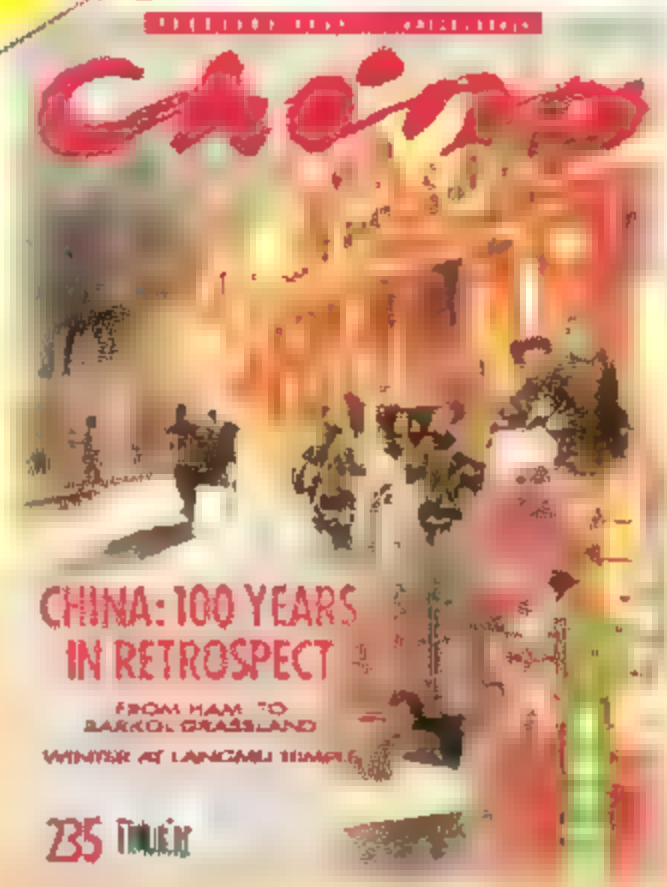
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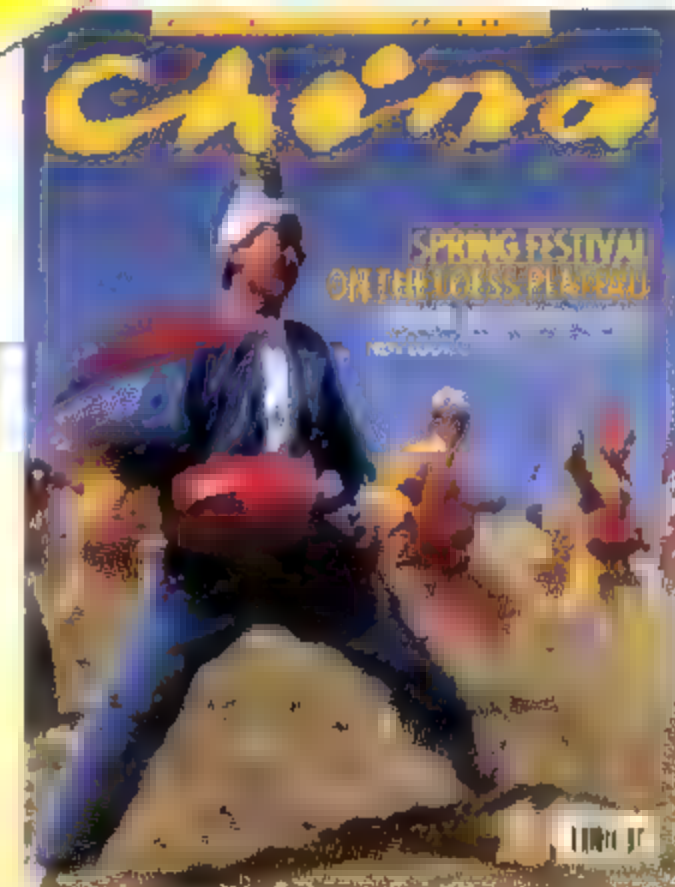
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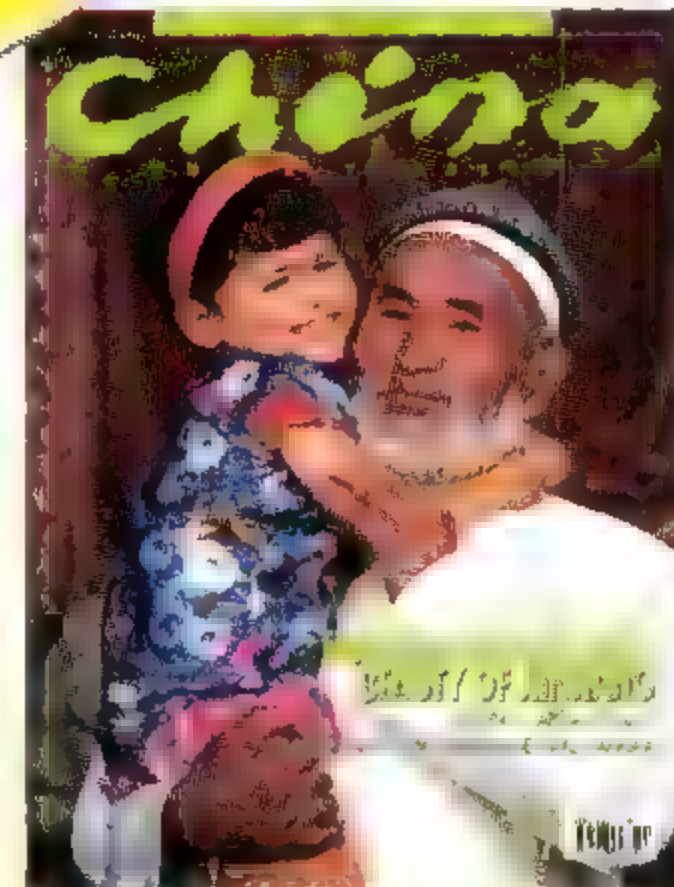
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- ◆ From Hami to Barkol Grassland
- ◆ Winter at Langmu Temple

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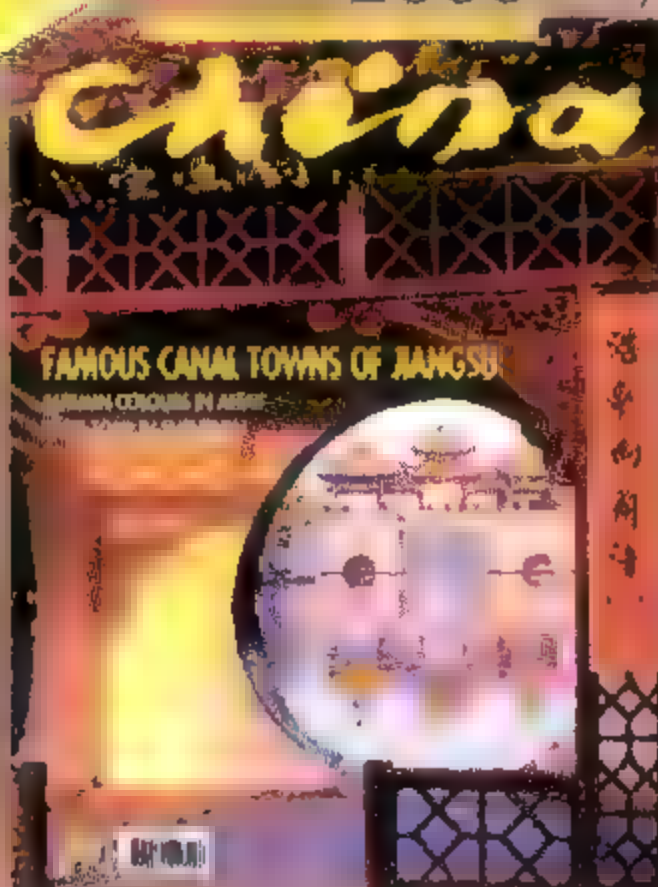
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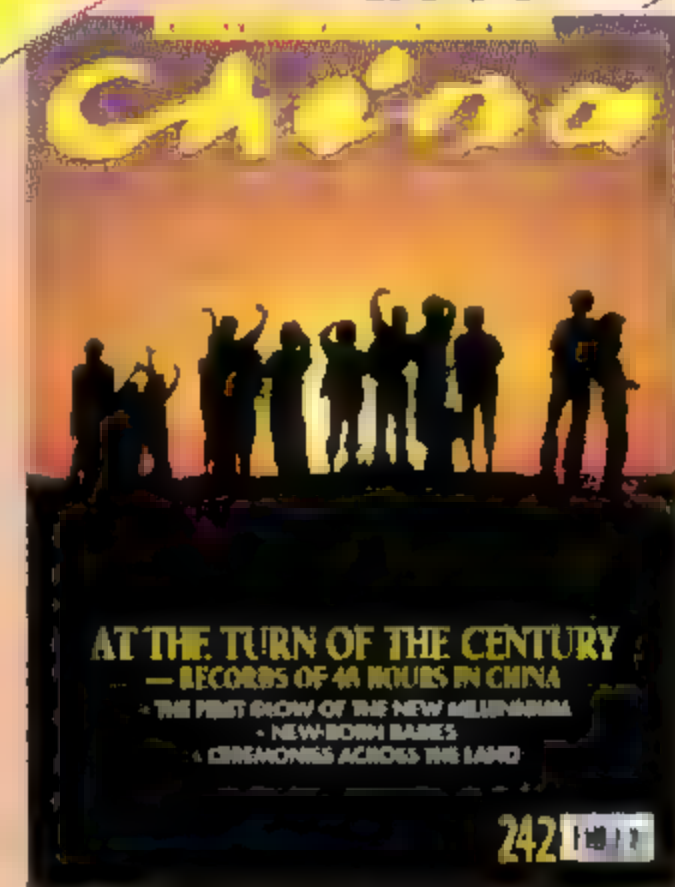
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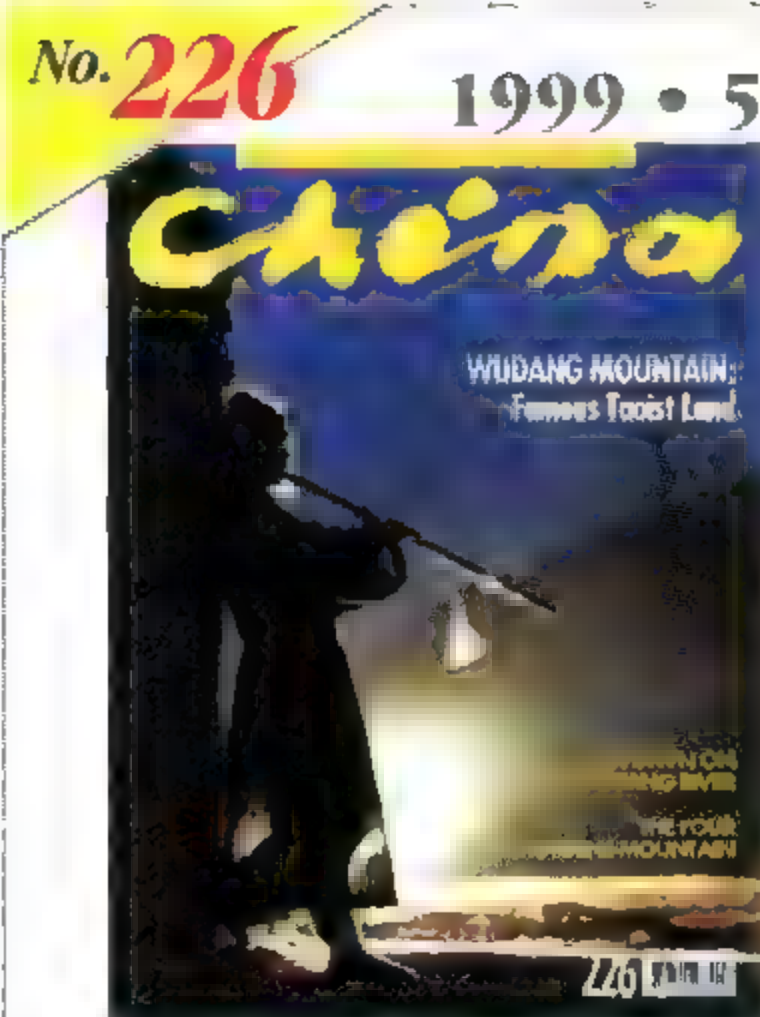
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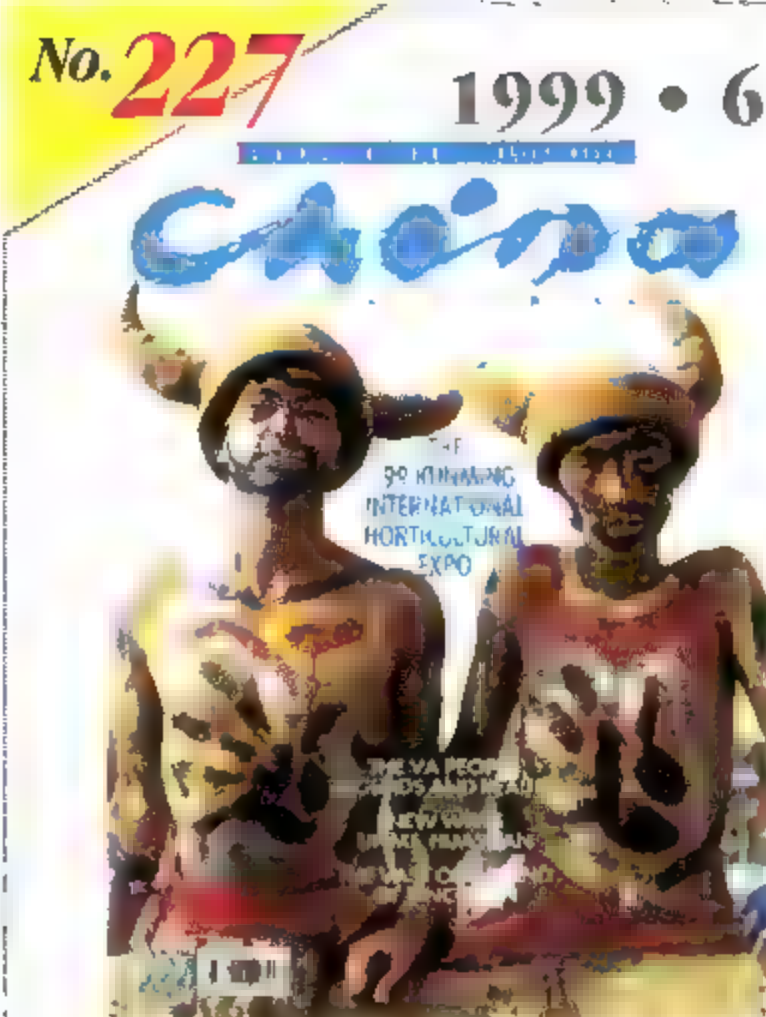


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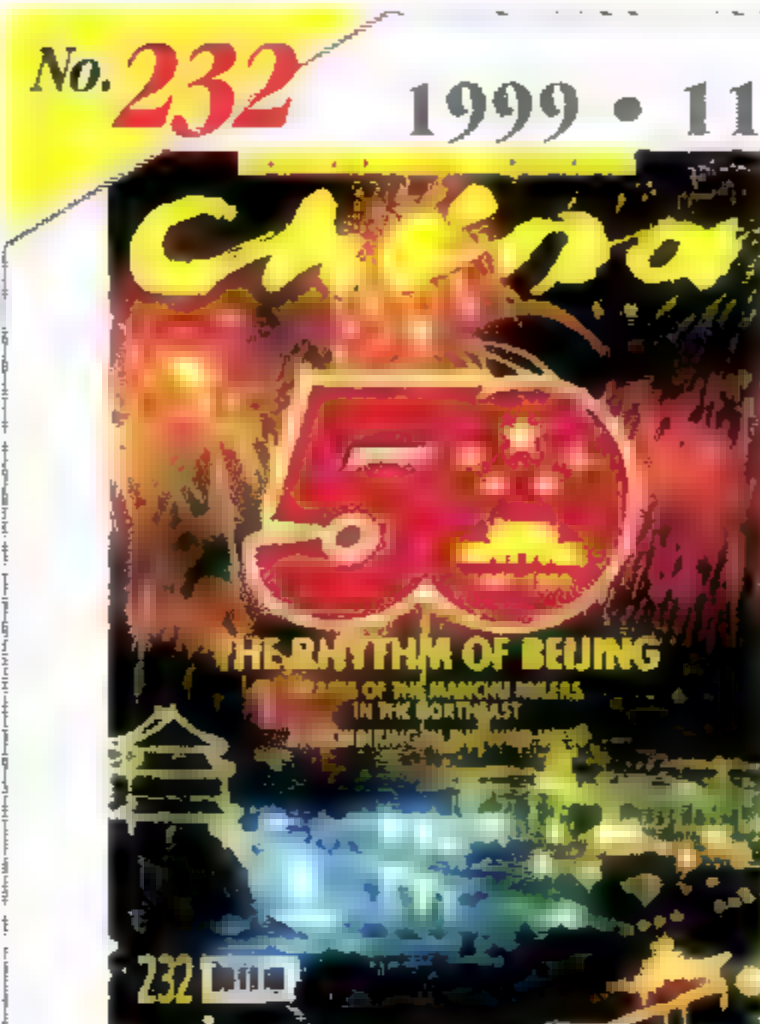




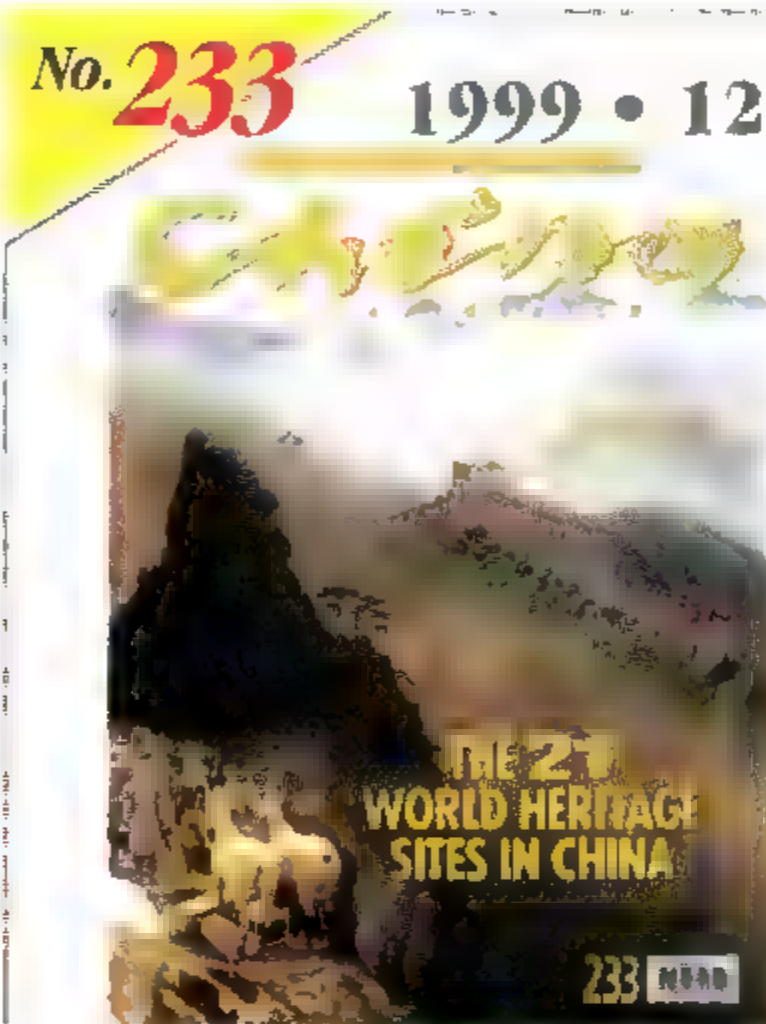
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- ♦ The Four Maidens Mountain



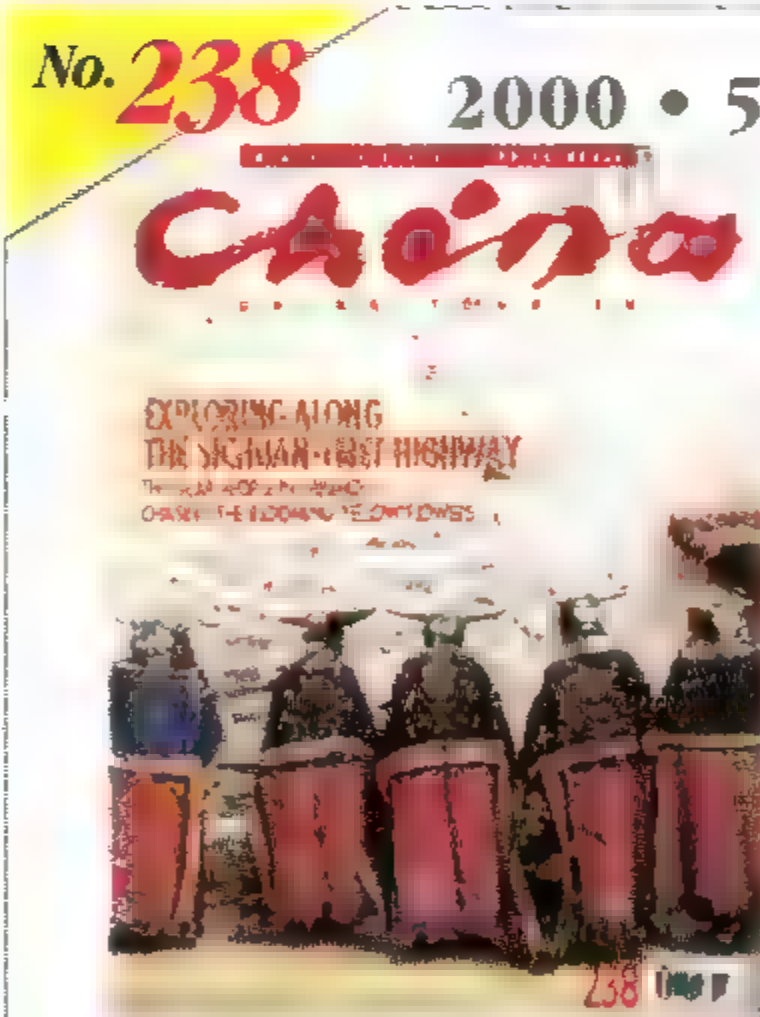
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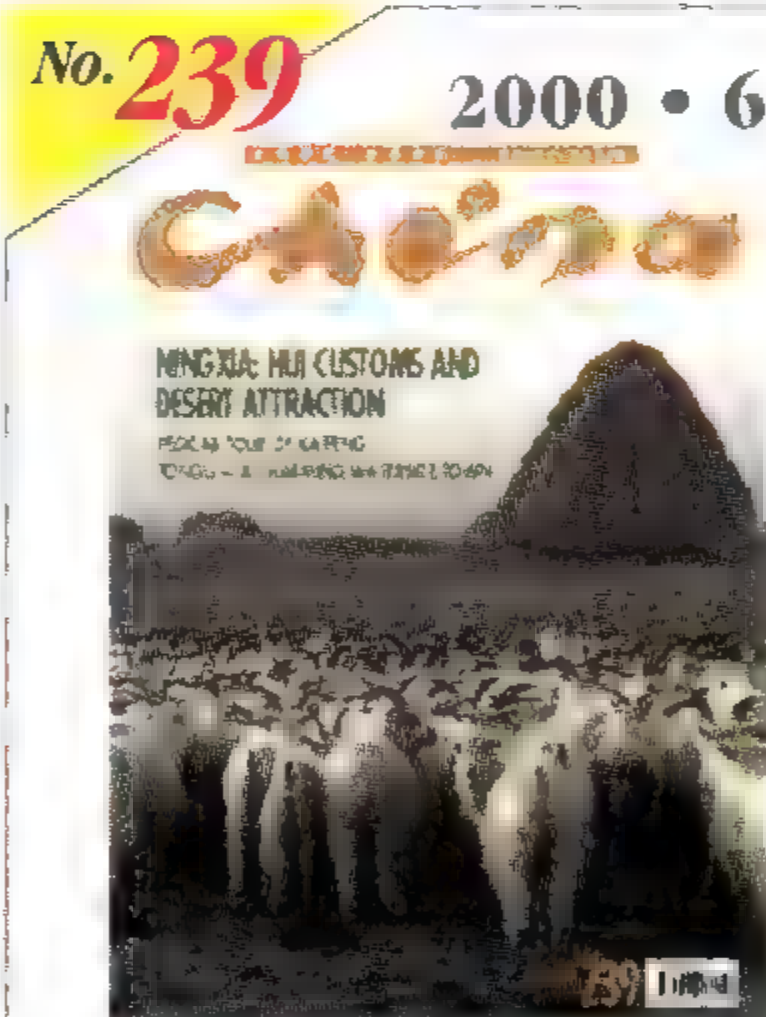
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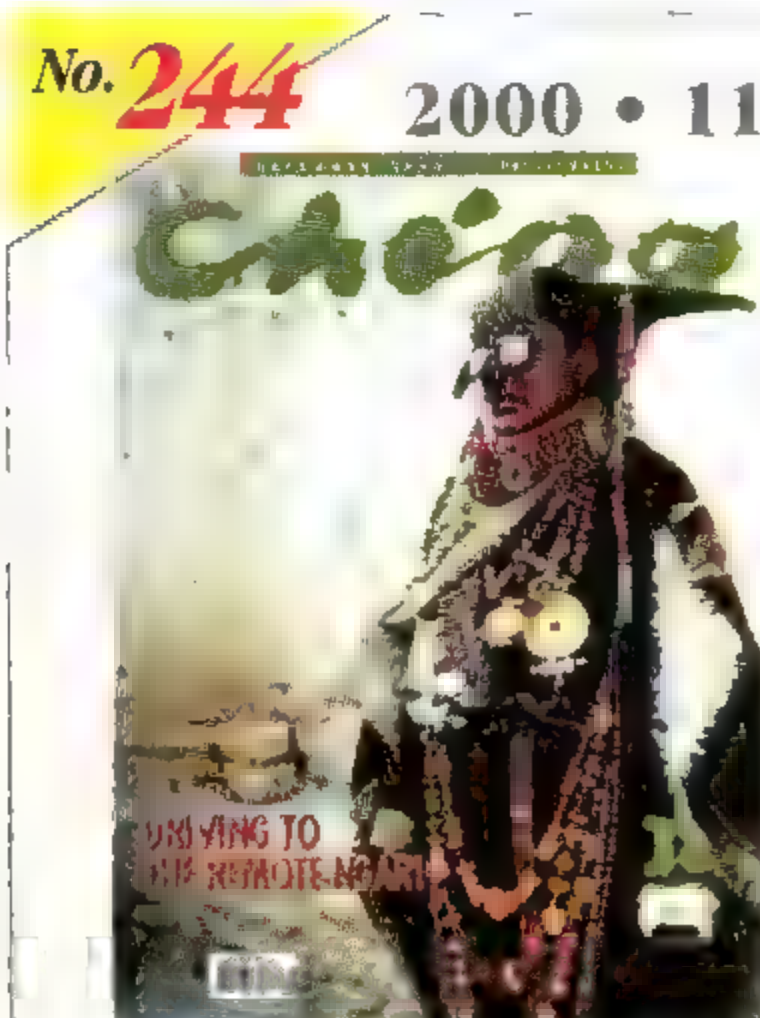
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City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
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	Asia Hotel Yantai	***	116 South St, Yantai	(535) 6247888	(535) 6245240
	Yantai Bihai Hotel	***	236 South St, Yantai	(535) 6219999	(535) 6224557
	Overseas Chinese Hotel Yantai	***	30 Huanshan Rd, Yantai	(535) 6224431	(535) 6216124
	Yantai Hotel	***	1 Huanshan Rd, Yantai	(535) 6888468	(535) 6888169
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	Donghai Hotel Yantai	**	38 East St, Yantai	(535) 6888460	(535) 6888140
	Railway Building Yantai	**	135 Beima Rd, Yantai	(535) 6256588	(535) 6261391
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	White Swan Hotel Weihai	***	12 Wenhua Rd E, Weihai	(631) 5231891	
	Sunshine Hotel Weihai	***	88 Tongyi Rd, Weihai	(631) 5208999	
	Hualian Hotel	***	58 Xinwei Rd, Weihai	(631) 5222888	
	Blue Sky Hotel	***	1 Huanhai Rd, Weihai	(631) 5231670	(631) 5231063
	Rongcheng Jiaotong Mansion Weihai	***	25 Nanshan Rd, Weihai	(896) 7574488	(896) 7575817
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	Rushan International Hotel	***	Shengli St E, Rushan, Weihai	(631) 6654101	(631) 6654127
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	1 3 4 5 6 7	1145	1240	SZ4572
	2	1150	1240	SZ4572
	1 5	1320	1430	SC 302
	3 7	1530	1630	SZ4584
	2 5 6	1700	1800	SZ4584
	1 4	1855	1945	SZ4584
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2010	2110	MU5134
Yantai — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0800	0900	SZ4583
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0950	1110	CA1586
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1320	1420	SZ4571
	4 7	1335	1445	SC 301
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1720	1820	MU5133
Chengdu — Yantai	5	1700	2035	SZ4531
	3 7	1705	2035	SZ4531
Yantai — Chengdu	6	0700	1100	SZ4532
	3 7	1710	2135	SZ4532
Guangzhou — Yantai	3 6	0925	1215	SZ4633
	6	1735	2140	SZ4576
	1 4	1740	2140	SZ4576
Yantai — Guangzhou	1 4 6	0725	1130	SZ4575
	3 6	1725	2015	SZ4634
Hangzhou — Yantai	3 7	1610	1745	CJ6952
	4 7	1750	1920	CJ6352
Yantai — Hangzhou	3 7	1040	1225	CJ6951
	4 7	1130	1250	CJ6351
Harbin — Yantai	1 5	0800	1000	CJ6243
	3 7	0810	1000	CJ6951
	4 7	0940	1110	CJ6281
	2 5	0950	1140	CJ6241
	2 6	1240	1430	WU 604
	3 6	1525	1650	SZ4634
Yantai — Harbin	2 6	1020	1200	WU 603
	3 6	1310	1435	SZ4633
	1 5	1450	1640	CJ6244
	3 7	1830	2030	CJ6952
	4 7	1940	2120	CJ6282
	2 5	1940	2130	CJ6242
Hong Kong — Yantai	3 6 7	1305	1600	MU5026
Yantai — Hong Kong	3 6 7	0900	1205	MU5025
Nanjing — Yantai	5	0955	1155	WU 559
	1 2 5 7	1010	1215	SC 607
	1 3 6	1025	1210	WU 559
Yantai — Nanjing	5	1235	1425	WU 560
	1 3 6	1310	1445	WU 560
	1 2 5 7	1640	1835	SC 608

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Shanghai — Yantai	1 4 5	1010	1120	MU5533
	1	1250	1410	CJ6244
	5	1305	1410	CJ6244
	2	1430	1540	MU5533
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1545	1700	SZ4574
	2 6	1555	1720	CZ8857
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1940	2050	FM 553
Yantai — Shanghai	1 4 5	0820	0935	MU5534
	1	1040	1200	CJ6243
	5	1040	1210	CJ6243
	2	1240	1350	MU5534
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1740	1850	SZ4573
	2 6	1800	1920	CZ8858
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2120	2230	FM 554
Shenzhen — Yantai	3 6	0925	1340	4G 819
	4 7	1555	1900	CJ6282
Yantai — Shenzhen	4 7	1150	1450	CJ6281
	3 6	1430	1920	4G 820
Tianjin — Yantai	1 2 5 7	1515	1610	SC 608
	1 3 4 6	1720	1820	CA1561
Yantai — Tianjin	1 2 5 7	1315	1445	SC 607
	1 3 4 6	1900	2000	CA1562
Xi'an — Yantai	2	1335	1530	XO9515
	5	1850	2035	SZ4531
	3 7	1855	2035	SZ4531
Yantai — Xi'an	6	0700	0855	SZ4532
	2	1610	1815	XO9516
	3 7	1710	1940	SZ4532

# Flights to and from **Weihai**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Beijing — Weihai	3 4	1610	1710	CA1587
Weihai — Beijing	3 4	1750	1850	CA1588
Changchun — Weihai	3 6	1420	1540	CZ3608
Weihai — Changchun	3 6	1225	1340	CZ3607
Dandong — Weihai	1 4 6	1300	1440	SC 712
Weihai — Dandong	1 4 6	1020	1200	SC 711
Guangzhou — Weihai	3 6	0900	1145	CZ3607
Weihai — Guangzhou	3 6	1625	1930	CZ3608
Jinan — Weihai	1 4 6	0830	0950	SC 711
Weihai — Jinan	1 4 6	1510	1630	SC 712
Shanghai — Weihai	1 3 4 6	1245	1410	FM 591
Weihai — Shanghai	1 3 4 6	1440	1550	FM 592

\* For reference only.

## Airline codes:

CA= Air China  
MU= China Eastern Airlines  
XO= Xinjiang Airlines

CJ= China Northern Airlines  
SC= Shandong Airlines  
4G= Shenzhen Airlines

CZ= China Southern Airlines  
SZ= China Southwest Airlines

FM= Shanghai Airlines  
WU= Wuhan Airlines



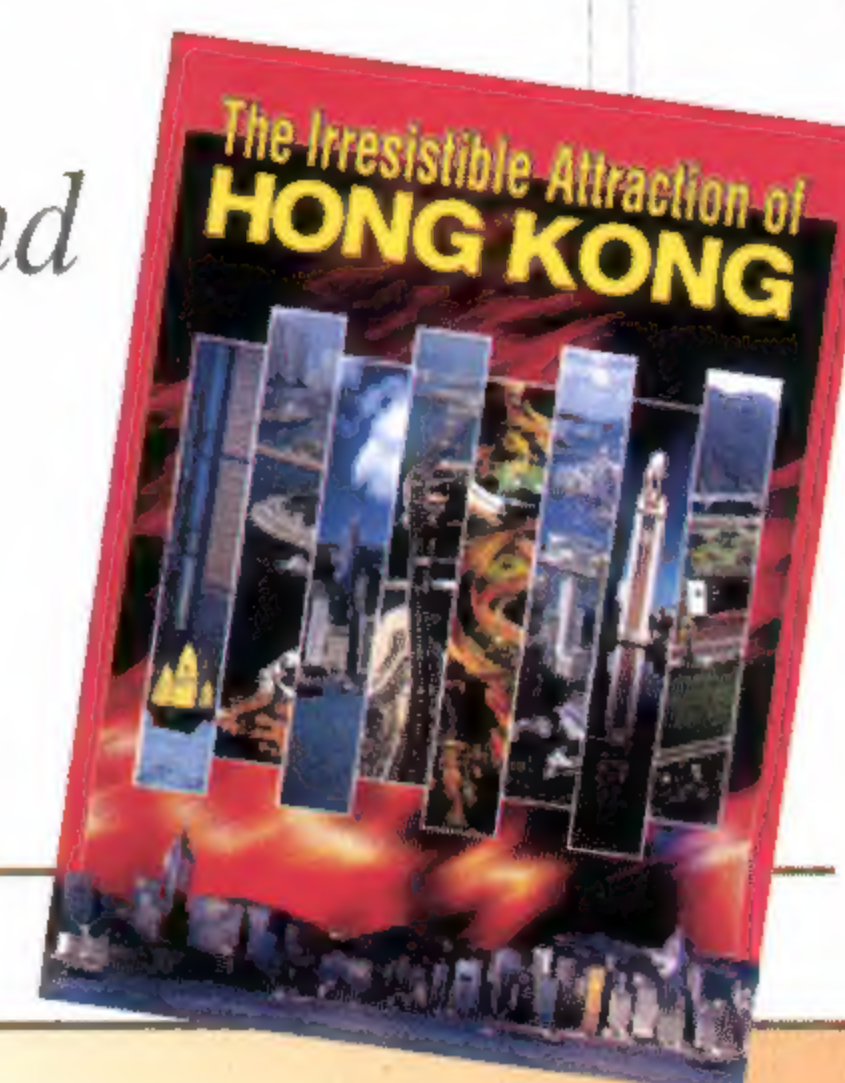
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公司主要經營醫藥原料、中間體、中西成藥、中藥材、保健品、醫療器械、醫院設備、醫用敷料及其它商品的進出口貿易及代理、加工貿易和補償貿易、承辦合資、合作經營等。公司一貫堅持「信譽第一」、「客戶至上」的宗旨，以其優質的服務、公道的價格、靈活的貿易方式，贏得廣大客戶的信賴。現與世界上130多個國家和地區建立貿易往來。目前公司下設2個子公司、5個分公司和3個進出口業務部；擁有一個符合GMP標準的醫用敷料廠、數萬平方米的自屬倉庫及沿江專用碼頭。公司在美國、德國、巴基斯坦等國家和地區建有5個海外機構。

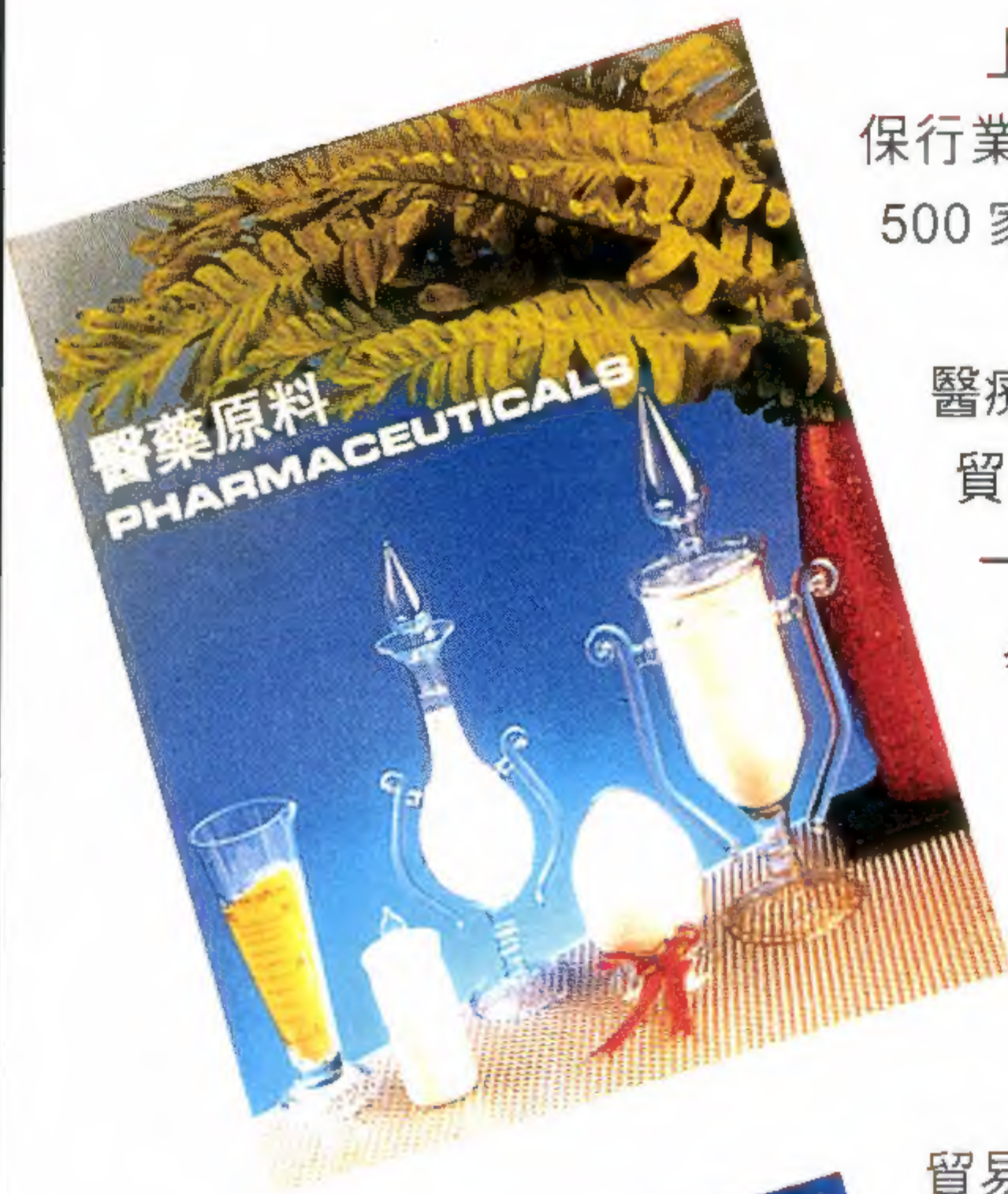
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